Comelec allows Estrada to vote in hospital

STORY ON PAGE A7

Voter's Voice 2001 ELEKSYON
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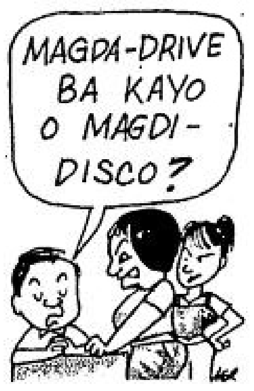
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2001 ★★ 72 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 155 ₱15

Dress code for driving irks women

KUALA LUMPUR—Two Malaysian women were barred from taking their driving tests because they were deemed to

DRESS/ A4


MAGDA-DRIVE BA KAYO O MAGDI-DISCO?

Bloody election eve

Bomb blasts rock South; 3 die, 21 hurt

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

BOMB explosions rocked three areas in Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur in election-related violence on Saturday night, killing three persons and wounding at least 21 others.

In Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao, a grenade exploded inside the campaign headquarters of Lakas-NUCD-UMDP mayoral candidate Malumpil Utto around 11:05 p.m.

Police said three persons were killed and 17 others were wounded.

Utto's supporters were holding a planning session when three unidentified men lobbed the grenade inside the headquarters in Barangay Barurao.

SPO4 Adam Utto Tatak, deputy police chief of Sultan sa Barongis, identified the fatalities as Mama Apon, 25; Baka Emblawa, 30; and Saguila Mama, 18.

Wounded were Utto's wife Linda, his Army escort identified only as Sergeant Candido, Sahid Utto, Pax Dalgan, Jun Adam, Mintium Alba, Taha Mamayog, Didikan Alba, Akmad Apon, Tata Salik, Maguid Utto, Marouph Utto, Sinangin Apon, Ernani Estrada, Paumpia Utto, Soraida Utto and a certain Edgar.

Supt. Panga Ibay, Maguindanao police chief, said investigators were still trying to establish the identities of the grenade throwers.

In M'lang, North Cotabato, a homemade

BOMB/ A20

QUEZON Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. is declared dead on arrival at the Liwag Hospital in Tiaong, Quezon, after being shot by communist assassins; (left photo) some of the bullet shells recovered at the crime scene.
DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

NPA owns killing of Quezon solon

By Delfin Mallari and Arnel Avila
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TIAONG, Quezon—Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. was shot and killed by communist gunmen during a campaign rally at the town plaza on Saturday night, prey like his father-politician to the savagery of assassins 17 years ago.

Punzalan, 56, died from three bullet wounds in the head, the 56th fatality in the run-up to the May 14 local and congressional elections.

His cousin and bodyguard, Conrado Soriano, 59, was also killed in the attack. Three others, including a military officer, were wounded.

A statement issued by the New People's Army said Punzalan was "punished for his long list of crimes against the people," including allegedly protecting drug traffickers.

The congressman's relatives, however, indicated that the Escuetas, longtime political rivals of the Punzalans in Quezon, had a hand in the killing.

Punzalan was the second official in Southern Tagalog slain by the NPA Melito Glor Command. The rebel unit has also claimed responsibility for the May 7 killing of Tanauan City Mayor Cesar Platon.

Other NPA units have killed at least four mayoral candidates and 13 other people in Ilocos Sur, Albay, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Southern Leyte.

Giselle Punzalan de Imus, the congressman's niece, said her uncle arrived about 11 p.m. at the Marcial Punzalan Sr. Memorial Sports Complex to attend the *miting de avance* of Raul "Leleng" Umali, who is running against Tiaong Mayor Merly Escueta.

PUNZALAN: Latest casualty of election violence.

De Imus, quoting witnesses, said a crowd of about 3,000 mobbed Punzalan as he tried to get to the stage.

"One of the gunmen approached my uncle and shook his hands firmly. He then brought out a hand-

NPA/ A4

Opposition warns vs 'dirty tricks' experts of PPC

By Cathy Yamsuan and Blanche S. Rivera

IT'S TIT for tat between the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) and the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) as they accuse each other of plotting to cheat in the elections.

Opposition leaders yesterday accused the PPC of sending dirty tricks experts to the bailiwicks of PnM to ensure that administration candidates would sweep the senatorial race.

They reiterated the allegations after the PPC accused the PnM of plotting to feed the media with fake data from election returns to create a "trend" in the media's quick count that PnM candidates were ahead in the ballot count.

Former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno

OPPOSITION/ A19

PPC says opposition hatching 'trending' plot

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine Avendaño

THE ADMINISTRATION'S People Power Coalition (PPC) claims to have uncovered an opposition plot to feed the media with manipulated election returns showing that senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) are leading the ballot count.

But when the correct election results would show that the PPC candidates were winning the election, the PnM would "cry fraud" and "incite" its supporters to resort to violence, according to PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco.

"If we win—as the legitimate pollsters show we would—they would shout fraud and again agitate people to possible acts of violence," Limcaoco said yesterday.

He was referring to surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations and the Pulse Asia showing "a majority win, if not clean sweep" by the PPC.

The PPC spokesperson said the alleged opposition plot was "along the classic Ronnie Puno tactic."

Former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, brother of senatorial candidate Ricardo Puno, was accused of using fraudulent "trending" to help certain candidates in the elections in 1995 and 1998.

Limcaoco advised the people to wait for the complete electoral results from the Commission on Elections and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and not to rely on "extrapolation and trending."

He said the opposition scheme would involve the use of "spurious data" that would be "fed" into the computer data system of the quick count operations of media and information technology firms.

"They will manipulate computer results and use malicious trending reports to predict an opposition victory," he said.

Joker Arroyo and other PPC senatorial

PPC/ A19

Sin: Ballot, not bullet; pen, not 'balisong'

By Agnes E. Donato

"LET us use the ballot, not the bullet, to express our sentiments about what is good for the nation. Let us use the pen, not our *balisong*, to express our power as a people."

Amid fears of more poll-related violence, Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday made a call for peaceful elections, as he asked forgiveness from the poor for the "shortcomings" of the Church.

But in a homily before some 2,500 people who flocked to the restored Edsa Shrine despite rainy afternoon skies, the Archbishop of Manila could not resist taking a dig at opposition politicians who had "manipulated" supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada into marching on Malacañang on Labor Day.

Alluding to the failed but bloody uprising against the Macapagal administration, Sin said: "Let us write our will on the ballot and not on the blood of innocent people who have been manipulated by greedy and immoral power grabbers."

His homily was addressed to a crowd made up largely of civil society groups and led by key players of the People Power II uprising like

SIN/ A20

RECONCILIATION: Doves of peace are released by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino and followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada during a Mass at the Edsa Shrine on Sunday.
DENNIS SABANGAN

100-day notion irrelevant to GMA presidency

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE TIME-HONORED notion of the so-called "First 100 Days," described by one American historian as the "phenomenon to give the presidency and the country the appearance of momentum and renewed purpose," fell by the wayside when the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo narrowly survived a mob-based coup attempt on May 1.

The storming of the Palace by hordes of the poor, incited to rebellion by opposition politicians, set back whatever momentum she had built to restore political stability and put back the economy on the rails.

The attack came a day after she completed her first 100 days on April 30. It inaugurated a new era of unrest, this time based on the poor masses rather than on mutinous soldiers. It disclosed a deeply divided society whose cleavages, running across class, religious and even elite lines, are not likely to be healed after the May elections, regardless of the outcome of the senatorial and congressional contests.

100-DAY/ A20

DAPAT LANG! PARA MALAYANG MAKAPILI ANG MGA TAO NG GUSTO NILA IBOTO!

El Shaddai opts to stay neutral

Bro. Mike not endorsing any candidates

By Jerry Esplanada

THE EL SHADDAI Catholic charismatic ministry of Mariano "Mike" Velarde is not officially endorsing any candidates in today's elections, spokesperson Mel Robles said yesterday.

"That is the official position," said Robles, somewhat dampening the hopes of senatorial candidates amid reports that the El Shaddai leadership was endorsing a split administration-opposition ticket.

Hopes of an El Shaddai endorsement were buoyed up when campaign materials being distributed by the El Shaddai party-list candidate, Buhay, at the group's Saturday prayer-rally included "sample official ballots" with 13 senatorial choices.

9-4 slate

The sample ballots listed nine senatorial candidates from the administration's People Power Coalition and four from the opposition coalition.

Robles explained that the El Shaddai was allowing "political parties and personalities to help Buhay . . but that does not mean we are endorsing them."

But he said El Shaddai members and followers were "free to express their political sentiments and preferences."

VELARDE: 'Playing safe'

The 6 million-strong group is avidly courted by politicians because its membership is known to slavishly follow the instructions of Velarde when it comes to politics or religion.

El Shaddai staff explained that Velarde—a so-called spiritual adviser to deposed President Joseph Estrada whose followers could always be counted on to beef up pro-Estrada rallies—had decided not to make public his choices as he did not want to be accused of being partisan.

But he is said to have asked his flock to vote for the pro-life Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay) as party-list candidate.

Velarde in HK

In a message read for him on Saturday night during the El Shaddai prayer-rally at the Philippine International Convention Center grounds, an El Shaddai leader said Buhay was Velarde's chosen one.

Velarde had skipped last Saturday's rally, called the "Family Appointment with El Shaddai." He is said to have gone to Hong Kong to attend an "anniversary gathering" of an El Shaddai group there.

El Shaddai insiders said Velarde was "playing safe" by not making an open endorsement for any PPC or Puwersa candidate.

"What Brother Mike did was a wise and right move," one of them said.

In the 1998 presidential elections, Velarde did not make an open endorsement for any presidential or senatorial candidate, but dropped broad hints about his chosen one, then Vice President Estrada.

But Velarde urged his followers to participate in today's electoral exercise, stressing that "democracy depends on the results of the May 14 elections."

'Buhay' sample ballots

Shortly before the six-hour prayer-rally started last Saturday, El Shaddai ushers could be seen distributing Buhay campaign materials, including the "sample official ballots."

The senatorial candidates in the Buhay list were, in the order listed: Manuel Villar, Franklin Drilon, Wigberto Tañada, Roberto Pagdanganan, Solita Monsod, Joker Arroyo, Ernesto Herrera, Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto, from the PPC; and former first lady Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Ricardo Puno, Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson from the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

Independent senatorial bet Noli de Castro, who has topped various poll surveys, was not on the list.

The Buhay campaign materials were donated by lawyer Mariano Cagatan of Teachers Village, Quezon City. They were printed by Kagitingan Printing Press of Port Area, Manila.

Another set of Buhay campaign paraphernalia only listed Buhay in its sample ballots.

Last week, the group disowned sample ballots it purportedly printed which were being distributed to the public. The "fake" sample ballots contained the names of senatorial candidates supposedly chosen by Velarde.

Robles said the group had not ordered the printing of any sample ballots. He said neither Velarde nor the El Shaddai Council of Elders has endorsed any candidate.

Robles said the sample ballots were "being produced by the candidates themselves," adding he had seen six versions of the sample ballots

'Puwersa' presence

Some El Shaddai members showed up wearing pink T-shirts endorsing PnM senatorial bet Jamby Madrigal while those manning a lost-and-found booth wore shirts with stickers of reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, also of PnM.

Madrigal supporters also distributed sample ballots with her name and those of seven other PnM candidates—Estrada, Enrile, Angara, Lacson, Orlando Mercado, Gregorio Honasan, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Another version of Madrigal sample ballots carried only her name and that of Ejercito-Estrada.

Bro. Rey Vargas, main speaker during the PICC prayer-rally, expressed confidence Buhay "will win in Monday's elections."

"One survey placed Buhay at No. 14. But it's No 1 in the Lord's survey," Vargas told El Shaddai members who were waving Buhay flags, which were being sold for P10 each at the PICC grounds.

POLICEMEN guard poll workers preparing the election paraphernalia in Manila. The police and the Armed Forces are on nationwide alert for today's elections.

ERIK ARAZAS

Soldiers to oversee elections in 'critical' areas, says Calimlim

By Carlito Pablo

MILITARY personnel will take the place of schoolteachers in areas of the country deemed to be "critical" in today's polls, like Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.

"The soldiers were trained after the teachers refused to do election duty for fear of their lives," Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, said yesterday.

Calimlim, who also heads the AFP's Task Force HOPE 2001, said the military has placed some 5,000 troops under the direct control of the Commission on Elections. HOPE stands for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

"We are taking all precautionary measures to ensure orderly and credible elections tomorrow," Calimlim said. "We are assisting the Comelec in this and we are working hand-in-hand with the PNP (Philippine National Police)."

The Comelec has identified more than 70 "hot spots" throughout the country. These are areas where large insurgencies are present, where local political leaders have private armies, and places with a history of poll violence.

Calimlim also announced the AFP had completed the airlifting of election paraphernalia to certain areas after commercial airlines refused to transport the materials.

Calimlim told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo that Hercules C-130 aircraft started the airlift Saturday, completing the operation by Sunday morning.

"We have transported the election paraphernalia to all points including Palawan, Cagayan and Zamboanga with no reported hitches," Calimlim said.

He said, "They (commercial airlines) backed out because of the bulk," refusing to provide details. The paraphernalia consisted of, among other things, ballots and election returns.

"We began transporting the materials yesterday (Saturday). As of today, we have transported them all," Calimlim said.

Special polling place set for disabled voters

By TJ Burgonio

THE COMMISSION on Elections has ordered the setting up of special polling places for disabled voters to ensure that they could vote without any hitches in today's elections.

In a resolution, the Comelec directed elections officers to put up a polling place for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at the ground floor of each polling precinct.

This would ensure easier access to the polling place, the poll body said in a May 9 resolution signed by Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and six commissioners.

Manuel Batac, president of the disabled group Pinagbuklod Bagong Pag-asa Association Inc., sent a letter last month to Benipayo requesting that voting precincts be made accessible to PWDs "so that we can exercise our right to vote."

He said that in previous elections some disabled voters failed to vote because their polling place was located at the second floor of school buildings, which serve as polling precincts.

"It was chaotic. It would have been OK if there was an elevator or an access ramp leading to the second floor but there was none," the wheelchair-bound Batac, who also hosts the radio show "Usapang K," said in an interview.

Batac said he would monitor the implementation of the Comelec's resolution in Caloocan City, where he resides. "We'll see if the election officers are aware of this resolution, considering that this was only issued last May 9," he said.

Apart from setting up of a polling place, Batac said the election officers should also assist PWDs, especially the blind, when they cast their ballots today.

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MAY 15-17	9-4:00	HOW TO START AND MANAGE A PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (with field trip)	1,732.50
MAY 15-18	9-5:30	FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING	2,310.00
MAY 15-18	9-5:30	STARTING A RESTAURANT BUSINESS (with field trip)	2,310.00
MAY 17-18	9-5:30	ACUPRESSURE THERAPY (Scientific Body Massage)	1,540.00
MAY 19-20	9-5:30	LAUNDRY SOAP AND DETERGENTS (In cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
MAY 19-20	9-5:30	CORSAGE AND BOUQUET MAKING	1,540.00
MAY 19-20	9-5:30	DECORATIVE CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
MAY 19-20	9-5:30	DOLLAR TRADING /FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	1,155.00
MAY 19-21	9-5:30	PROFESSIONAL HOUSEKEEPING (Home, Hotel & Shipping Vessel)(with field trip)	2,310.00
MAY 21-22 (NEW)	9-5:30	OPERATING A TRANSPORT (Cooperative) BUSINESS	2,310.00
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MAY 21-24	9-5:30	SILKSCREEN PRINTING	2,310.00
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MAY 23	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
MAY 24-25	9-5:30	CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY (BASIC)	1,540.00
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MAY 26-27	9-5:30	JAPANESE SHIATSU THERAPY	1,540.00
MAY 26-27	9-5:30	AROMA CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
MAY 26-28 26-27 28	9-5:30 9-12:00	OPERATING A LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS (SMALL SCALE) (with field trip)	1,732.50
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MAY 28	9-5:30	FRANCHISING A BUSINESS	770.00
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MAY 29-JUN 1	9-5:30	ELECTROPLATING	2,310.00
MAY 29-JUN 1	9-4:00	OPERATING A RETAIL STORE BUSINESS (with field trip)	2,310.00
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MAY 30-31	9-5:30	GOAT AND SHEEP RAISING (with field trip)	1,386.00

FOOD COURSES

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MAY 15-18	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	P 2,079.00
MAY 17-18	9-5:30	PROCESSING OF CHICHARON AND OTHER PORK BY-PRODUCTS	1,540.00
MAY 19-20	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
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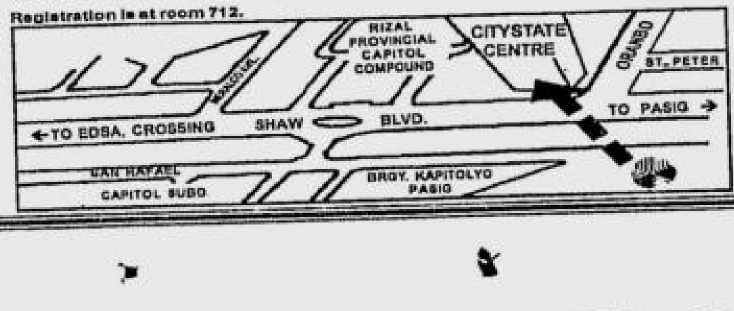

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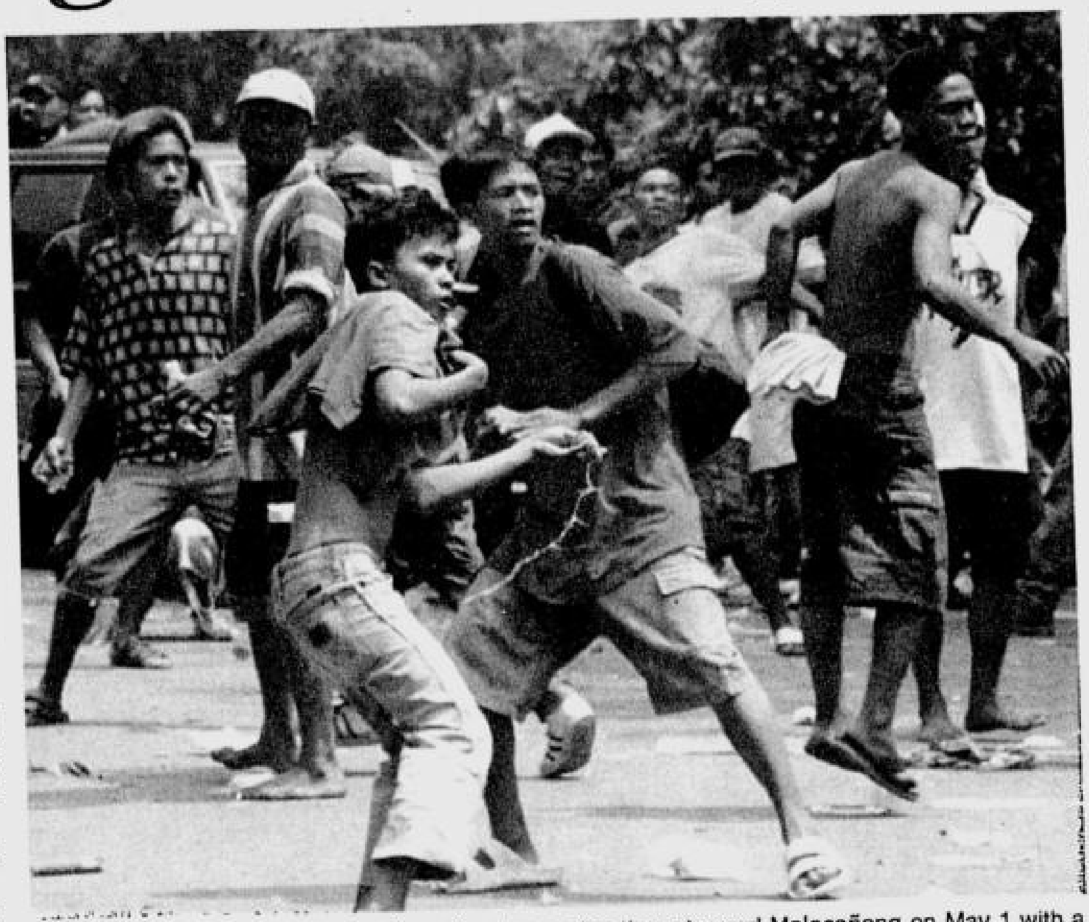
Poor's anger haunts polls

By Ruben Alabastro



ESTRADA supporters battled police with stones after they stormed Malacañang on May 1 with a ferocity that left the nation stunned. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

TWO weeks ago, they stormed the gates of the presidential palace with a fury that stunned the country's ruling elite.

Today, they will go to the polls to vote in an election which most of them know will make little difference to their lives.

How legions of poor Filipinos vote is likely to determine who wins a struggle for the control of Congress between President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration and a feisty opposition coalition led by detained former President Joseph Estrada.

But how the millions of angry poor act is a growing worry. Never in the Philippines' 55-year history as a republic has the country been gripped by fear of the anger of the poor.

"Poverty has been politicized. It can explode in various ways. The only problem here is—can it explode in a violent way without a clear ideology or a clear vision guiding it," political analyst and INQUIRER columnist Randy David told Reuters.

Regarded by his diehard followers as a hero of the downtrodden, Estrada was ousted from power in January in a military-backed uprising by mostly middle-class people, which catapulted Arroyo to the presidency.

Poor's power

Estrada's supporter were infuriated by the arrest of their hero on a corruption charge punishable by death or life imprisonment and thousands of them marched on Malacañang Palace in a May Day attack denounced by Arroyo as an opposition plot to grab power.

It was the first time ever that mobs of poor people—mostly slum dwellers and out-of-school youth—had directly challenged the seat of government.

"There is a rage at the bottom and that is expressed in terms of warped political loyalties," said analyst Alex Magno. "It is that rage that has to be addressed."

It is that rage which Estrada, a former film actor who often played a champion of the underdog in his films in the 1950s, is counting on to boost his party at the polls.

"In the elections, let us show the genuine power of the poor against the rich people's power," Estrada said in a tape recording broadcast at the opposition's final rally on Friday.

Estrada's party is the underdog in today's elections for 13 of 24 Senate seats and all 262 seats in the House of Representatives. Thousands of local posts are also up for grabs.

Arroyo hopes to bolster her fledgling administration by winning control of the Senate.

Deep anger

Disillusionment among the poor—comprising over a third of a population of 76 million—has festered for generations.

It continues to feed a three-decade-long Marxist insurgency in the countryside.

The anger from the depths has prompted Arroyo, seen identifying more with big businesses and the influential Roman Catholic Church, to visit slum communities ahead of the polls, promising to fix roofs and clear sewage systems.

The state housing agency estimates half of Manila's 12 million people are living in "danger areas," such as near creeks prone to flooding.

The attack on Malacañang Palace showed "this reservoir of grievances can be ignited anytime," said columnist Amando Doronila in the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper.

Social volcano

"This is the social volcano on whose edge the Arroyo administration and the Filipino people are sitting."

Estrada loyalists warn they will return to the streets if the opposition is cheated at the polls.

"If there is cheating, there will be another Edsa," housewife Zenaida Sabico said, referring to a Manila religious shrine which has been the staging ground of "people power" street protests in recent years. She took part in the May Day attack.

Analyst David said it was unfortunate that opposition politicians had used the poor to push for their objectives.

"Legitimate grievances are being exploited for partisan gains rather than harnessing them towards a radical transformation of an unjust social order like ours," he said.

Support for Estrada remains substantial among the poor despite prosecution charges that he has plundered the economy.

"Intellectuals always think of the masses as stupid . . . that they are shallow and narrow-minded. Then they (found) someone like Estrada who will inspire them to believe in themselves," said Ronald Lumbao, head of a pro-Estrada urban poor group. *Reuters*

Foreign media arrive in Manila to cover elections

CORRESPONDENTS of some of the world's largest television networks arrived in Manila over the weekend in time for today's national elections, which they might not get to cover.

Journalists from the European Broadcasting Network, Cable News Network, NHK, ARD German TV Network, AP TV Network and Nippon TV flew in Saturday and Sunday.

"They will be broadcasting the elections live," said a staff member of the International Press Center (IPC) who met the correspondents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

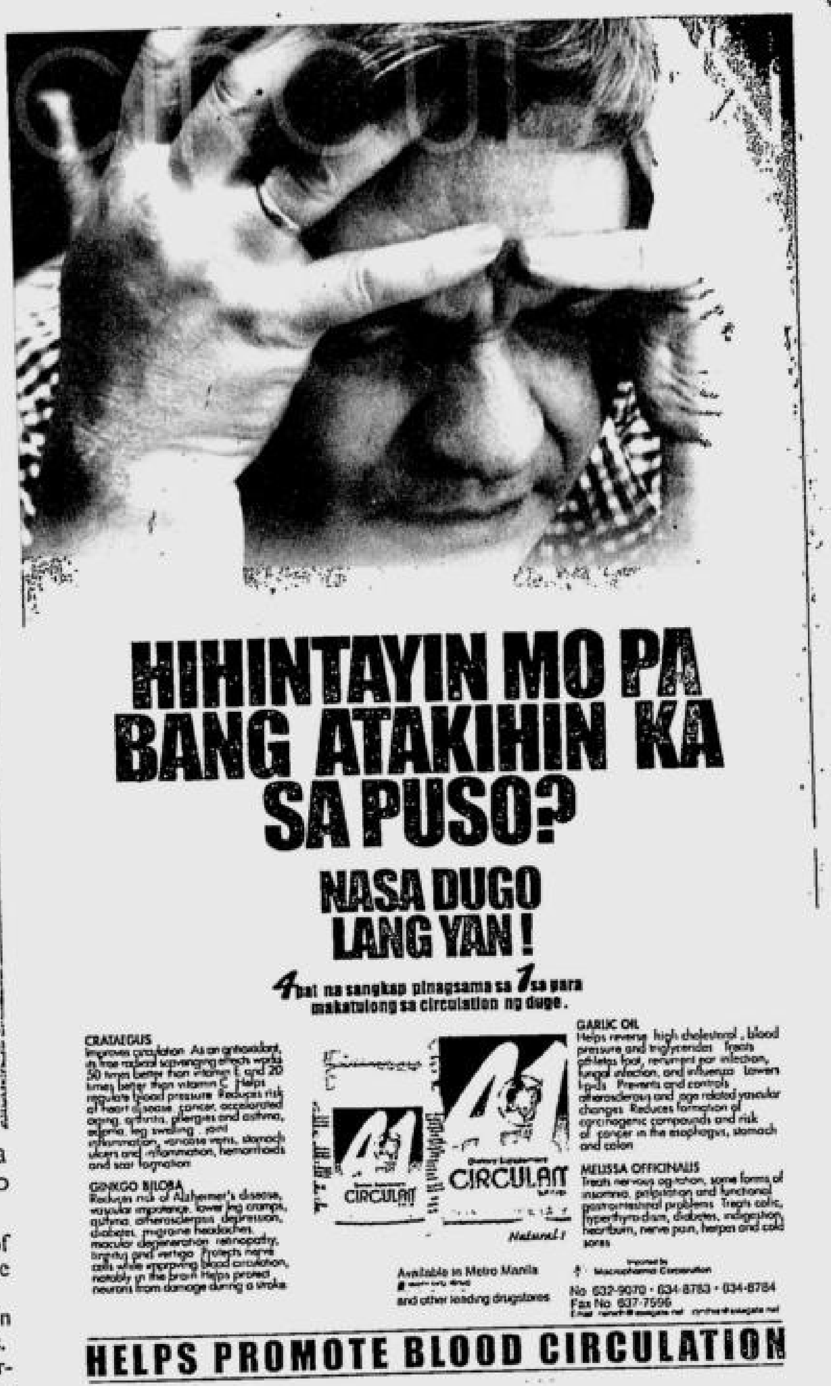
The IPC staffer said, however, that some foreign media persons who had planed in earlier were not issued press accreditation cards by the Commission on Elections.

"There were reports the poll body would take up their applications for accreditation on Tuesday. That would be too late," she said.

Other correspondents, like those from Time, Asiaweek, Newsweek, the Far Eastern Economic Review, ABC News and CBS News have been in the country for several months now monitoring local events.

Today's elections have drawn international attention, coming on the heels of two massive people power demonstrations that saw the ouster of a President and a bloody attack on another one, all in the space of four months.

The polls are also seen as a referendum on the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose assumption to office in January was challenged by followers of her deposed predecessor, Joseph Estrada, in a violent assault on the Presidential Palace on May 1. *TJ Burgonio*



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Dress code for driving irks women

(From page A1)

be improperly dressed, a report said Sunday.

Ng Kwai Ho, 37, was clad in tight stretch slacks and round collar T-shirt, while Chen Yea Feng, 18, was dressed in a body-hugging T-shirt and bell-bottomed long pants, the Sun newspaper said.

A Road Transport Department official in the northern Penang state reportedly told the duo: "You cannot enter, are you going to a disco clad like this?"

Ng told the newspaper that she and Chen tried to reason with the officer, but he insisted they change their clothes if they wanted to take the test.

The RTD's dress code applies to all races entering the building.

According to Ng, however, the dress code sign in the building only barred applicants in shorts and singlets.

Recently, the immigration department in Kuala Lumpur refused to renew a woman's passport because of her choice of outfit.

The incident drew fire from women's groups who slammed the overzealous enforcement of the department's dress code.

Ayob Idris, RTD chief of Penang, defended the officer's action, saying the department had a strict dress code.

"The two women were improperly dressed, a clear violation of the official dress code," he said.

"We do not want the incident in Perlis (the northernmost state) where an RTD officer fondled a woman's breast to be repeated here," Ayob added.

AFP

THE FLAG-DRAPED casket of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan is brought to his house in Barangay Pury, San Antonio, Tiaong, Quezon. EDWIN BACASMAS

NPA owns killing

(From page A1)

gun and shot my uncle in the head," she said.

De Imus said Soriano embraced Punzalan to protect him, but bullets felled him, too. The two were declared dead upon arrival at the nearby Liwag Hospital.

Dr. Jayson Liwag said three bullets splattered Punzalan's brain out while Soriano suffered bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

M/Sgt. Nemesio Bernachea, who was assigned to protect Punzalan, suffered two bullet wounds in the left thigh.

Abet Cumahig, a supporter of Umali, and Robert Potenciano, a singer from Manila, were also hit by stray bullets. Both were rushed to the provincial hospital in San Pablo City.

BLOOD stains remain on the pavement in front of the Marcial Punzalan Memorial Complex on Escudero Street in Tiaong. EDWIN BACASMAS

Potenciano, who was hit in the chest, told investigators that a "young man wearing white short pants and a buri hat" shot Punzalan at close range.

Other witnesses said at least six men took part in the attack. They reportedly mixed with the crowd that dispersed in different directions at the sound of gunfire.

Supt. Amado Sadili, Tiaong police chief, said his men found 16 empty shells from .45 cal. and 9-mm pistols at the scene.

"The job seems well planned. The assailants were already in the area awaiting Punzalan's arrival," said Supt. Alberto Mercado, Quezon police chief.

Witnesses said there was also a brownout shortly before the killing that might have allowed the assailants to position themselves.

Solon's mother

Illuminada Punzalan, the congressman's mother, wept beside her son's body at the emergency room of the Liwag Hospital.

"Whoever ordered for my son's death is also related to the masterminds of my husband's murder several years ago," the grieving widow said.

"I don't want to name names but the people here know whom I'm referring to," she added.

Her husband, Marcial Punzalan Sr., was mayor of San Antonio when he was killed by hired guns in 1984.

His family has blamed the Escuetas for the murder.

The political rivalry between the Punzalans and Escuetas continues to this day.

The young Punzalan was on his third and final term as congressman of Quezon's second district.

His widow, Lynette, is pitted against Ed Escueta, former chief of staff of Sen. Edgardo Angara and ex-administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, in the race for the same congressional seat.

Lynette is running under the administration People Power Coalition, while Escueta is running under the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

She was attending her own *miting de avance* in Lucena City when the killing took place. Johnny Oliveros, the district officer of the slain official, said the congressman's widow and her family would temporarily stay in their house in Las Piñas."

"But she passed by the funeral parlor in San Pablo City where the body of Congressman Punzalan was awaiting autopsy," he said.

The congressman left four sons and a 5-year-old daughter.

Asked whether the widow would pursue her candidacy, Oliveros replied: "Definitely, yes. That's what her husband had wished for her to do—to continue his task of serving the people of Quezon."

NPA statement

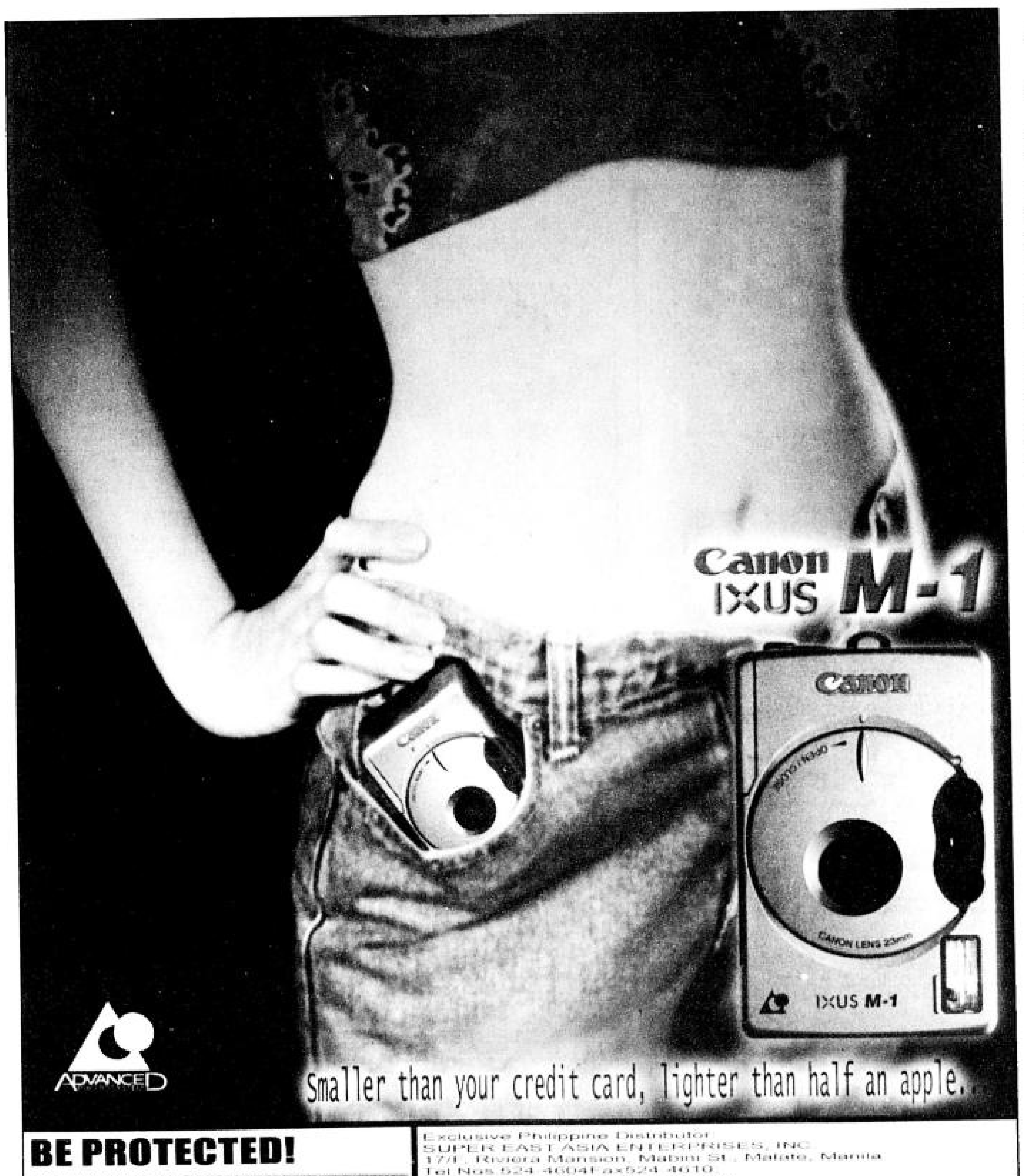
In a statement to news agencies, the NPA Melito Glor Command said "a special operations group punished Congressman Marcial Punzalan with death."

The statement accused the lawmaker of giving protection to drug traffickers in the province

The statement said a "people's court" tried and found Punzalan guilty.

The congressman has denied reports linking him to the illegal drug trade, saying these were part of the Escuetas' black propaganda against him.

Recently, the National Bureau of Investigation cleared Punzalan of the accusations. *With reports from Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo in Manila*



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Poll winners known in 1 week—Namfrel

By Cynthia Balana

UNOFFICIALLY, the winners in today's elections will be known in one week.

This was the promise made yesterday by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) which said it aims to complete 80 to 90 percent of its quick count by then.

Not only will the Namfrel count be fast, for these parts, it will be as accurate as it could be as well.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said this was because the private watchdog group will be furnished election documents that would enable it to detect instances of *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving) during its count.

Concepcion said Namfrel will receive in addition to the sixth copy of the election returns, the third and fourth copies of the certificates of canvass for senators, members of Congress, party-list groups and officials in the municipal and provincial levels.

In previous elections, Namfrel was only given the sixth copy of election returns.

"We're confident there would be less *dagdag-bawas* as we're going to receive the third and fourth copies of the certificates of canvass which are the basis for the proclamation of winners," Concepcion said.

These copies will be compared with those in Comelec hands. Any discrepancies would indicate attempts at *dagdag-bawas* where one candidate's votes are credited to another.

He said this year's quick count will begin at 3 a.m. on Tuesday after the tedious process of counting and initialing of election documents that could take at least nine hours after the polls close.

He said that in the 1998 senatorial elections, Namfrel was able to complete 78 percent of its count after one week.

This year, Namfrel has set up 50 computers and counting machines and 200 telephones in the La Salle gym.

Some 300,000 volunteers, mostly students and professionals, have been tapped for the count. Each volunteer is insured for P50,000.

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants will audit the Namfrel count.

Polls reflect dreams for better life

By Jim Gomez

LAURO Vizconde is running for Congress on an anti-crime platform to help others avoid his nightmare—drug-crazed teens killed his wife and two daughters nearly 10 years ago.

Former underground leader Satur Ocampo seeks political reforms.

Dentist Renato Sison, promises to fight tooth decay.

Their dreams range from the lofty to the practical, but the varied platforms of hundreds of candidates contesting up to 50 special party-list House seats for the underprivileged in today's elections reflect a common longing for peace and a better life.

The special seats, comprising a fifth of the 262-strong House of Representatives, are allotted to under-represented groups in a recently enacted party-list system. Elections for the seats are being held simultaneously with the balloting for more than 17,000 local, Senate and regular House posts.

With the legislature long dominated by the rich and powerful, the new avenue to Congress for the marginalized has rekindled hope for a motley array of aspirants: farmers, doctors, World War II veterans, letter carriers, former rebels.

One candidate is fighting a giant soft drink company which allegedly didn't pay his prize money in a 1992 advertising contest scandal.

The party-list elections also have attracted crusaders fighting everything from corruption and fraud to illegal drugs, gender discrimination and crime.

Vizconde, 62, says it hurts each time he talks about the night of June 30, 1991, when young men from wealthy families broke into his middle-class home and killed his entire family while he was in the United States. One of his daughters was raped. Five men were convicted.

The killings were one reason cited by lawmakers for reimposing the death penalty that had been abolished by the 1987 Constitution.

Sison has a more down-to-earth concern: good teeth. His goal is affordable dental clinics, especially in rural areas, calling it an issue of paramount economic importance.

"Can you work if your teeth ache?" he asks.

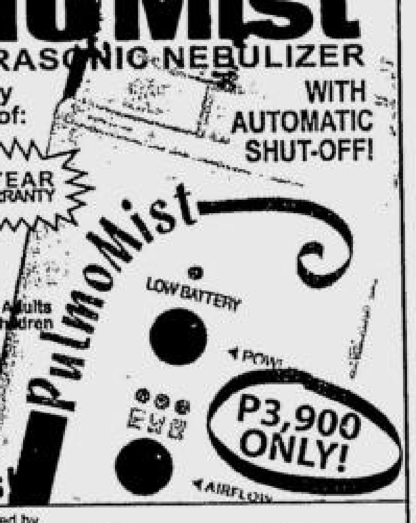
The party-list elections also have drawn an unexpected group: Those formerly associated with leaders of the three-decade-old communist insurgency. Active guerrillas shun elections.

Ocampo, a former spokesperson for the communist-led National Democratic Front, is running under a legislative agenda opposing the government's trade liberalization program. He is also seeking effective agrarian reform and an end to age-old exploitation of laborers, farmers and fishermen.

Romulo Kintanar, a former commander of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, heads a party-list group that fielded candidates but is not running himself.

"This is a good opportunity to wage a fight for the interest of marginalized Filipinos through the ballot and not through guns," he says.

Associated Press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Voting: 12 easy steps

By Gerald Lacuarta

WHEN I get to my polling place, will I get to vote immediately?

No, you must go through 12 "easy" steps, says the Commission on Elections answering frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding today's elections.

The FAQ says the first step a voter should take is to approach the chair of the Board of Election Inspectors and give his name and address. He should be ready to present a valid ID if the chairman asks for it.

Step 2: The chair will then apply indelible ink on the cuticle of the voter's right forefinger. Don't wipe the ink off immediately. Let it dry so the stain could set in.

If you refuse, for any reason, to have your finger marked with indelible ink, you won't be given a ballot and your name will be recorded. You might even be suspected of being a "flying voter," one who votes in more than one precinct.

Step 3: After your finger has been marked, the chair will announce the serial number of the ballot that will be given to you. This number will be written on the confirmed voters' list (CVL Form 2) and on the back of your voter's registration record (VRR).

The reading of the serial number aloud is supposed to prevent cheating. "Together with the serial number, this step ensures that there is no substitution of ballots," the FAQ said.

Step 4: The chair will sign the back of your ballot to authenticate it. Failure to authenticate your ballot will result in an election offense.

Step 5: The chair will fold the ballot so that only its serial number is visible. Then he will give the ballot to you.

Step 6: When you receive the ballot, sign the back of your VRR. If it was a court that ordered your inclusion as a voter, sign and put your thumb mark on CVL Form 2.

Step 7: Use the ballot secrecy folder you will be given to ensure that no one sees what you write on your ballot.

"Do not use carbon paper, paraffin paper or any other means to make a copy of your ballot. Do not make any identifying marks on the ballot either," the FAQ warned.

Step 8: After filling the ballot, fold it the same way the chair did when he gave it to you. Place your thumb mark on the ballot coupon and return the folded ballot to the chair.

Step 9: The chair will verify the serial number of the ballot to make sure it was the same one he gave to you. If the serial numbers don't match, you will be given another ballot. However, charges may be filed against you if warranted. Your name and the incident will be recorded and reported to the election officer. The ballot with the different serial number will be considered "spoiled," marked and placed in the spoiled ballot compartment of the ballot box.

Step 10: If the serial numbers match, you will put your thumb mark on the back of your VRR. The chair will also sign the back of your VRR or CVL Form 2 if you are voting per court order.

Step 11: The chair will detach the coupon of your ballot and drop it in the compartment for spoiled ballots. The ballot itself will be returned to you.

Step 12: Once you receive your ballot again, drop it into the ballot box.

The FAQ said dropping the ballot into the ballot box used to be done by the election chair. This time, the voters themselves will drop their own ballots into the box.

After voting, the voter should leave as only a few persons are allowed to be in the polling place. These are members of the BEI, watchers, voters still voting, Comelec representatives and others authorized by the poll body.

Guia admits she wants to visit Erap but . . .

By Blanche Rivera

FORMER actress Guia Gomez, one of deposed President Joseph Estrada's longtime partners, admitted yesterday that she would like to visit him in jail but would be unable to do so anytime soon because of health problems.

Gomez, mother of San Juan mayoral candidate JV Ejercito, who used to be addressed as "First Lady of San Juan" when Estrada was mayor there, said her doctors had advised her to get as much bed rest as possible.

She said she suffers from transverse myelitis, a disorder of the spinal cord that can be caused by such conditions as multiple sclerosis. She added that, among other things, her ailment had prevented her from attending any of Ejercito's previous campaign sorties.

She made the remarks after the *miting de avance* of her son JV at the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan Saturday night. She confided that she had gone to the rally without her doctors' knowledge because she had wanted so badly to be there for her son, who is taking his first shot at politics.

She did not say if the frequent visits of Estrada's legal family to his detention center in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, made her uncomfortable about going there herself.

"I think everybody wants to visit the (former) President," Gomez said. "If given the chance, why not?"

The young Ejercito, however, has reservations about letting his female relatives visit his father's maximum-security detention center because of the alleged "heartless" treatment accorded Estrada's guests.

Ejercito complained that the guards subjected all visitors to "utter humiliation" while searching them for security purposes.

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Polls may help revive economy

FED up with months of political uncertainty, investors are banking on a strong mandate for President Macapagal-Arroyo in today's elections to revive a battered economy and restore sagging business confidence.

But some analysts warn that the polls may not end the political stalemate as Arroyo's jailed predecessor Joseph Estrada remains a thorn in her side and continues to spook the markets with his supposed latent support among the poor.

Investor confidence in the Philippines was badly shaken as early as September last year by massive corruption allegations against Estrada.

The graft accusations climaxed with Estrada's ouster in January in a popular military-backed uprising that installed the 54-year-old US-trained economist Arroyo in his place.

Nearly four months after Arroyo took over and promised a clean government with market reforms, the investment climate remains dim.

On May 1, tens of thousands of Estrada's largely urban poor supporters stormed the presidential palace to reinstate him, resulting in the country's worst riots in 15 years with four people killed and more than 100 injured.

Estrada insists that the uprising against him in January was driven by the rich of Manila and that he still had strong support from the poor who elected him.

His landmark corruption trial next month may be another venue for his supporters to show their muscle—giving more headache to the Arroyo administration wanting to push ahead with ambitious reform programs and lift the economy from the doldrums.

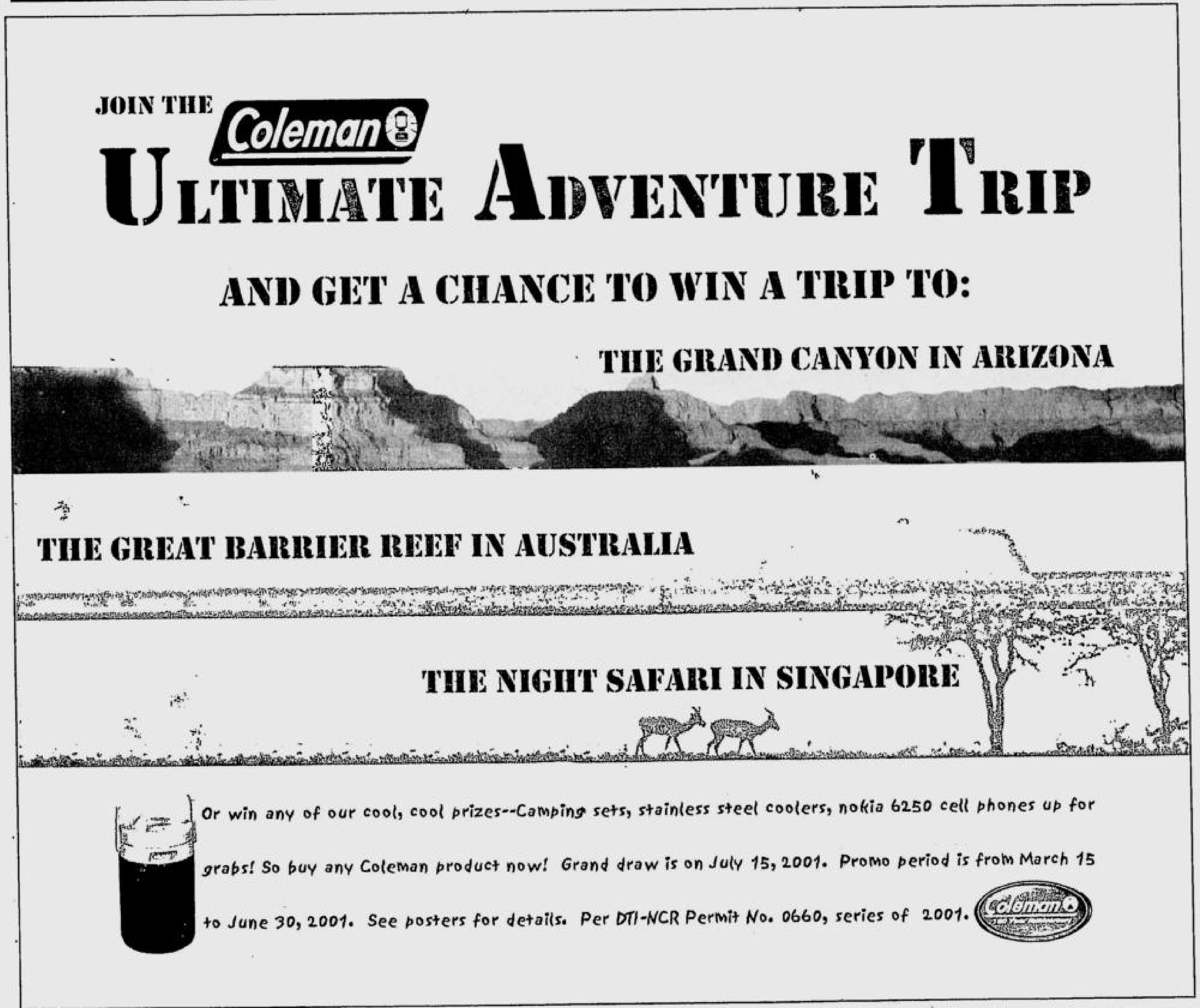
"Anyone who talked to investors, economic analysts and businessmen know for a fact that the single biggest hindrance to normalcy is the political factor," notes business commentator Boo Chanco in the Philippine Star.

Surveys show a slack in business and consumer confidence amid the political problems and high inflation and unemployment.

Sales of cars and commercial vehicles—a good confidence benchmark—have slipped for the seventh straight month in April.

Overall, manufacturing production has dropped both in value and volume terms with portfolio and foreign direct investments also down.

AFP



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Gloria seeks fresh mandate in today's polls

THREE months after being catapulted to power in a military-led uprising, President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to ask the people for her first mandate to lead one of Asia's most vibrant democracies.

Arroyo has been campaigning heavily for her People Power Coalition (PPC) for legislative elections on Monday, particularly for 13 senatorial candidates facing off against opponents backed by her jailed predecessor Joseph Estrada.

A mother of three, the petite and deeply-religious 54-year-old Arroyo emphasized maternal concerns in her last message to voters. "If we think of our children and their future, we will vote for those who can do good things for them," she said.

She also stressed she would need an overwhelming majority in the Senate to enact needed reforms.

The congressional and local elections are widely seen as a referendum on Arroyo's three-month-old administration, as well as a proxy battle between the new president and the old one—who is now in jail and facing major corruption charges.

The latest surveys show Arroyo's coalition will capture eight of the 13 much-watched Senate seats, but party leaders still feel they can get as many as 12.

Arroyo, an economist with a strong background in academia and a daughter of a former president, is a sharp contrast with Estrada, a former top movie star, admitted womanizer, drinker and gambler who dropped out of college.

Arroyo has enjoyed success since entering politics in 1992, winning election to senate and then vice president.

The president and vice president are elected separately in the Philippines and, in 1998, Arroyo easily trounced Estrada's running mate, even getting 1.9 million votes more than Estrada.

But her ascension to the presidency has always been clouded by the fact she took office after the scandal-tainted Estrada was ousted by an uprising backed by the military and police and led by leaders of the Catholic Church.

In her first weeks in power, Arroyo shored up the support of these crucial groups, promising the military and police more benefits and hewing closely to the Church line, even banning a sex-oriented movie that offended Catholic leaders.

A nationwide survey conducted between April 19 and 23, found that 42 percent of respondents were satisfied with her performance compared with only 25 percent who were dissatisfied.

But Estrada, who was jailed on April 25 pending his trial on plunder charges, continues to insist he is still the legal president.

On May 1, thousands of Estrada fans drawn mostly from the urban poor stormed the presidential palace in an attempt to topple Arroyo.

Arroyo beat back the attack and charged that Estrada allies were seeking to oust her so they could install a junta. Several of the alleged plotters are among Estrada's candidates for Senate.

AFP

Sandigan recalls order; Erap to vote in hospital

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday recalled its earlier decision allowing imprisoned Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to vote in their hometown after police appealed to the court that the ex-president's going to San Juan could pose a security problem for the public.

Estrada said yesterday he was in good health, contrary to a statement by Malacañang he was suffering from various ailments.

"We are not sick, we are sick only in the newspapers," Estrada said in a statement.

"I really do not know why we are pictured as if we were really sick," he said.

In a new resolution, the anti-graft court ruled that the two detainees cast their votes at a special precinct in the tightly secured Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where the Estradas had been transferred on Saturday after complaining of various ailments.

The court also provided that should police decide to take the Estradas back to their detention cell in Laguna last night or today, they could cast their ballots there.

Court sheriff Ed Urieta read out the text of the resolution in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

The decision was greeted with relief by police Chief Supt. George Aliño, the director of the Eastern Police District which has jurisdiction over San Juan.

"It felt like a big thorn was taken out of my throat," said Aliño.

Aliño has been coordinating security preparations with San Juan police in anticipation of pro-Estrada supporters swooping down on the San Juan public school where their fallen idol would have voted.

Aliño said the plan had been to deploy some 200 policemen and Special Action Forces with bomb-sniffing dogs to the school.

A Veterans official, meanwhile, also doused speculations that the Estradas had been airlifted to the hospital because of some serious medical condition.

In a TV interview, VMMC director Salvador Flores said the Estradas merely showed signs of suffering "common illnesses because of the weather."

He said the two were "up and about and conversant."

He said the elder Estrada did not even have a fever when he was brought in the other day.

He declined to say how long the Estradas would remain at the VMMC although in an official medical bulletin, Flores said the former president would be completing an aborted medical checkup.

The Estradas were in the middle of a thorough physical examination when police decided to move them to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, at the height of the siege of Malacañang on May 1.

Actor Rudy Fernandez, who visited the father and son yesterday, said the ex-president had visibly lost weight since being detained at the specially built bungalow cell.

The Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division did not alter its original decision on the voting rights of the Estradas' co-accused, lawyer Edward Serapio.

Serapio, who is being detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office in Camp Crame, will be allowed to vote in his hometown of Obando, Bulacan. ***With reports from Agnes Donato and Nickson Ryan Matias; AFP***

ESTRADA

Comelec forms 3-man team for Estradas

THE COMMISSION on Elections has formed a special three-member body to record the vote of detained former President Joseph Estrada and San Juan Mayor Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center today.

The Comelec was acting on a resolution issued by the Sandiganbayan yesterday allowing the Estradas to vote either at the hospital or at their detention cell at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, said Comelec commissioner Rex Borra.

Borra said a special Board of Election Inspectors would be bringing two ballots, a ballot box, indelible ink and the Estradas' voters' registration records from their San Juan precincts.

The special BEI will be composed of Comelec officials, not teachers. The Comelec *en banc* was still deciding last night on the special team's composition.

Borra said the ballot box from the hospital will be turned over to the regular BEI of the Estradas' original precincts.

"It (ballot box) will only have two ballots inside after they have voted," Borra said.

Borra said the Comelec decided to have the Estradas vote at the hospital because it would have been impossible to put up a polling place in their Laguna detention center.

The Sandiganbayan has also allowed Edward Serapio, Estrada's former legal counsel now detained at Camp Crame as an accessory to plunder, to vote in his Obando, Bulacan precinct. ***Gerald Lacuarta with Marionne Acabado and Marie Carisa Ordinario***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 14, 2001
St. Matthias, Apostle

1st Reading: *Acts 1:15-17, 20-26*
Gospel: *Jn 15:9-17*

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and *bear fruit*, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

This is my command, that you love one another."

Commentary:

Matthias was not one of the original Twelve. With Judas' demise, one who had been with Jesus from the time he was baptized by John till his Ascension had to be added to the Eleven. The lot fell on Matthias. Together with the Eleven, he would witness to God's love manifest in Jesus the Christ. Thus, the great dignity of the apostles consisted first of all in their being friends of the Lord, knowing the very secrets of God for the life of the world. It is from this center that we are able to go and bear fruit. In your work for God and his people, from which center do you operate?

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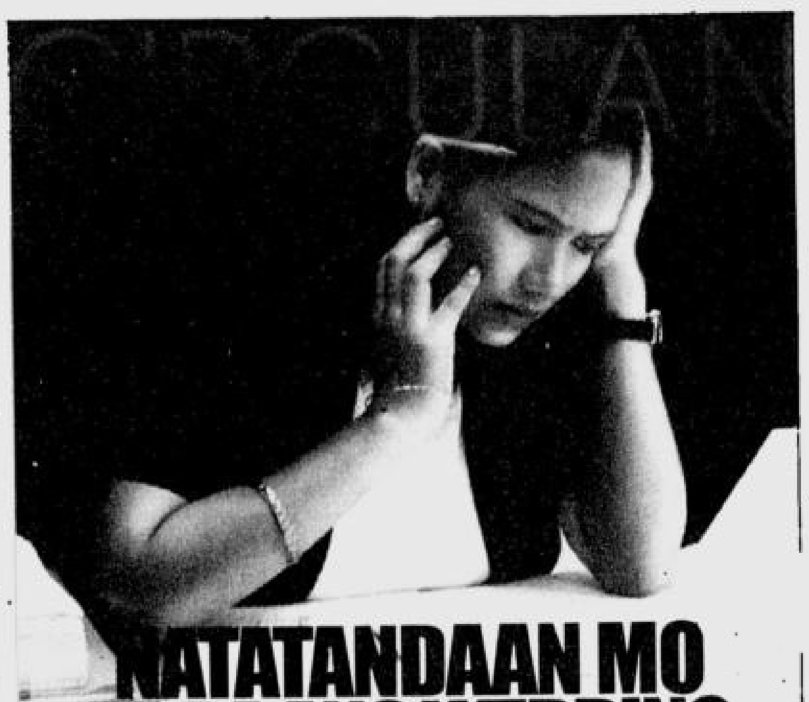

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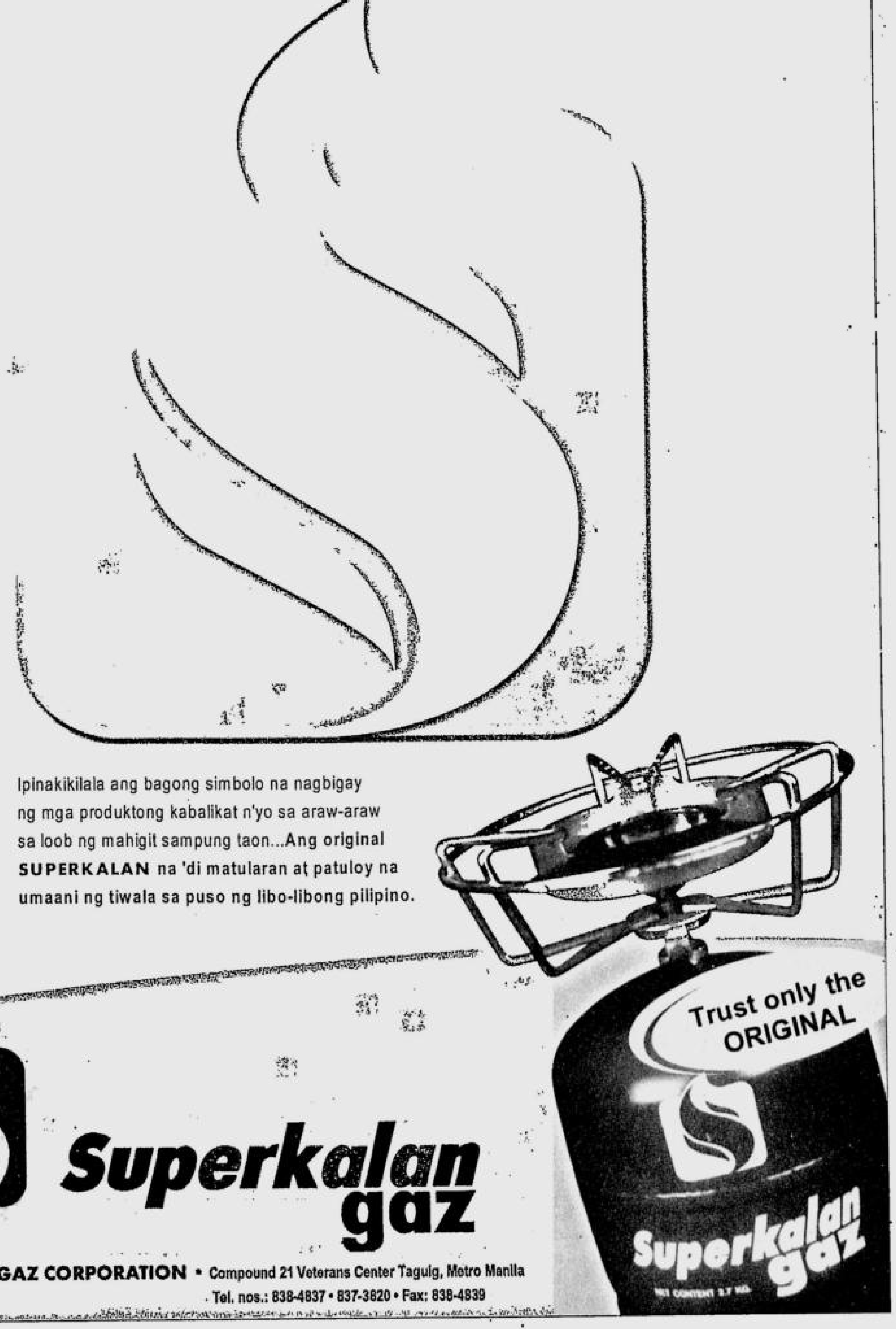

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 155
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-85 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Need for sobriety

EDITORIALS

EVERY election day, it has become standard to call for sobriety and calm. But on this particular election day, there is a greater need to call for sobriety. Despite the suppression of a budding rebellion in front of Malacañang on May 1, the nation remains a potential tinderbox that can burst into flames any time.

One spark, one incident, one inflammatory remark can ignite a Metro-wide or even a nationwide conflagration. We are thus glad that the Sandiganbayan ruled that deposed President Joseph Estrada should vote at a special polling place at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Trouble could arise if he were allowed to vote in his hometown of San Juan. It would have been, as the police feared, a security nightmare. People who seek to destabilize the Macapagal administration could make an attempt on the ousted president's life and blame the attempt on the administration.

Considering the fanatical following of the former president, we hate to think of the consequences of an assassination attempt, whether successful or not. The police can now heave a sigh of relief and be thankful that they will confront one less security problem.

We hope that the leaders of the administration and the opposition, as well as those of minor parties and independent candidates, will tone down their rhetoric as the nation goes to the polls today. We do not need remarks that will again agitate the masses, the way they were agitated on the night of the assault on Malacañang.

As this was being written, the death toll from election-related violence had risen to 56 and was still rising. Most of the slayings occurred in the provinces where local electoral contests have reached fever pitch. We urge the local officials and the candidates for congressional, provincial, city and municipal posts to calm down their followers. No government post is worth the expenditure of even one life.

Whatever the anger, frustration, resentment of the voters may be, they can always find a peaceful outlet for them at the polls. We have a legal, constitutional means for making our sentiments known; let's use it, let's exercise our right to vote. In the meantime, let everybody remain calm. Let's all hope and pray for clean, orderly and peaceful elections.

Some criteria

BY THIS time you must have made your choices. You've prepared your sample ballot, the *codigo* that you will copy at the polling precinct. But if you're one of those who make their choices at the eleventh hour, then perhaps we can help you with some criteria.

Consider the educational qualification of the candidate. It goes without saying, of course, that one who would occupy a position of trust should at least know how to read and write. But generally, a higher educational qualification would be better.

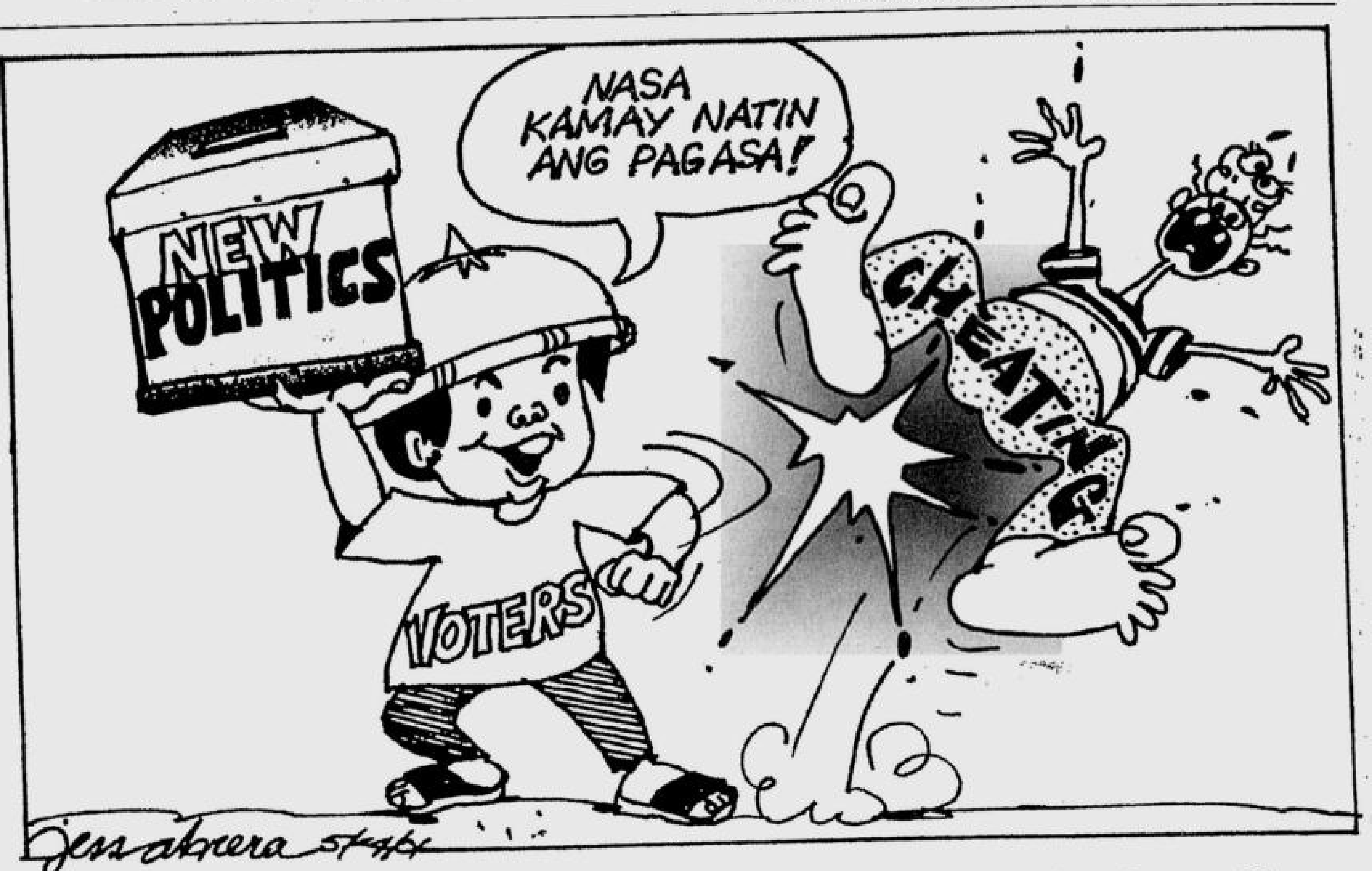
Look at the experience, the record, the accomplishments of the candidate. If he is running for reelection, he should have some record of sorts. If he is making his first try in an election contest, then look at his record in his present profession or occupation.

Examine his platform, if he has any. What is his idea about how to alleviate poverty and improve the economy? If he is running for the Senate, how does he propose to reform the educational system? What is his solution to the peace and order problem? The problem of graft and corruption? His stand on other issues?

What is his work ethic? Is he a hard and conscientious worker or is he the laid-back type who would like only to enjoy the perks and privileges of his office and would not be bothered with its duties and obligations?

Is he a man of good reputation and solid integrity? Is he an ethical, moral man? A candidate may be popular, good-looking and intelligent but if he does not have a sense of ethics and morality, he will not make a good public servant. We have had many examples of people with no sense of ethics, decency or morality who occupied high elective positions in government but did not serve their people well. We should give primary consideration to the character and integrity of a candidate.

We have gone through many periods of instability and uncertainty. Internal troubles, ideological struggles, political strife as well as adverse external developments have buffeted our nation almost continuously. We can help lessen the effects of these factors and put our nation on the road to peace and progress if we would only elect the best people to the many positions at stake in today's elections. And so, we urge you: vote wisely.



Last-minute problems, questions in today's polls

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY is the day. Today we get that one chance every three years to decide for ourselves how our government would be run for the next three years at least simply by voting for candidates of proven integrity and ability. The question is will we use wisely that right to choose our destiny. Or will we again fall in the same traps of the past when we voted for popular, good-looking candidates who pretended to be looking after our welfare and promised heaven and earth in exchange for our votes? Let us not commit the same mistakes.

We are fortunate that we already know how a good number of candidates performed in the past and how strong or weak are their moral scruples. Don't vote for those with doubtful pasts and morals. Vote for their rivals. Better to vote for an unknown entity (at least, there is a 50 percent chance that he would be better) than for a known unsavory character.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the senatorial race. It can be said that it is a battle between good and evil. On the one hand are those who fought for law and justice in the recent impeachment trial and against massive and shameless graft and corruption. On the other are those who not only winked at, condoned, justified and perhaps participated in the graft but also illegally tried to overthrow a legal government and for which they are now asking us to vote them into the Senate. Do so at your own peril. You already saw what they did. Imagine what they will do next if we approve of their crimes by voting for them.

Some of you will be tempted today by people offering to buy your votes. Don't sell your birthright. In the first place, they will probably pay you with fake peso bills. A counterfeiting syndicate has been smashed in San Fernando, Pampanga, suspected of printing bogus bills to be used in vote-buying. Not only will you be unable to spend them but you can also be charged with trying to pass fake bills.

Even if you are given genuine bills, remember that we will have to pay for them. If elected, the candidate will certainly steal taxpayers' money. How else will he recover his expenses? He is the public official who keeps you poor because he steals your money.

If you desperately need the money offered for your vote, accept it but don't vote for him, nevertheless. If you do, he will continue to exploit you through the years. If somebody tries to buy your vote, all the more you shouldn't vote for his candidate. That is your own money anyway that he stole. And he will continue to steal if we vote him into office.

Remember, you are not voting only for candidates. You are voting for your future.

* * *

Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman is the lone gubernatorial candidate in Bataan. So he is as good as elected? Wrong. Roman has already served three consecutive terms as governor, according to the Commission on Elections en banc, and therefore he is disqualified from being voted upon today for a fourth term.

The confusion arises from the fact that Roman assumed the governorship of Bataan after he was elected as such during the 1993 recall elections to serve the unexpired term of Gov. Enrique Garcia. He was reelected in 1995 and again in 1998, three terms. Therefore, he is disqualified from running for a fourth consecutive term and a disqualification petition has been filed by a qualified Bataan voter, Fred S. Ramos, against him.

The second division of the Comelec dismissed the petition last May 8, 2001 on the ground that Roman served only one year of his first term and therefore he has not yet served the maximum nine years mandated by the Constitution. That resolution has not yet become final and executory as another qualified voter, Roger Galang, filed a motion for reconsideration on May 10, 2001. The second division erred, he said, because the Comelec en banc has affirmed on Sept. 3, 1998 a ruling in SPA No. 98-198 that Roman has already served three consecutive terms and therefore is disqualified from running for a fourth term.

The reason is that the counting of the governor's service is not in the number of years but in the number of terms, according to the Comelec en banc, the Supreme Court and Concon delegates Hilario Davide and Joaquin Bernas. Roman's service from June 1994 to June 1995 was his first term, they said. The second term was from 1995 to 1998, and the third term from 1998-2001.

Unlike a vice governor or vice mayor—or vice president like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—who succeeded to the top post because of the death, incapacity, resignation or removal from office of the occupant, Roman was elected in the recall elections of 1993. He is in the same class as a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate who is elected in special elections to serve the unexpired portion of another.

The Supreme Court has agreed with Commissioners Bernas and Davide that that term, "no matter how short, will be considered one term for purposes of computing the number of successive terms allowed." The 13th senator who will be elected in today's polls, for example, who will serve only three years (the unexpired term of Vice President Teofisto Guingona) instead of the regular six years, will be deemed to have served one full term in 2004. Because of this, Roman is therefore clearly disqualified from running in today's polls.

But not having any other candidate for governor of Bataan, Roman will surely be proclaimed at the close of today's balloting. That is why Galang has filed a petition with the Comelec to suspend his proclamation until the issue of his disqualification is finally decided. If Roman is proclaimed and he is disqualified later, then the vice governor, who is also running unopposed, will succeed to the governorship. That would be an injustice to the people of Bataan. A governor whom they did not vote for would be forced on them.

But if Roman is not proclaimed and he is disqualified later, a special election for governor can be held in which the voters would choose from among several candidates. If he is not disqualified, then he can be proclaimed governor.

Nothing would be lost if Roman's proclamation is suspended. But a grave injustice would be committed to the people of Bataan if he is proclaimed and later disqualified.

Forget the surveys

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DO not agree with banning surveys on or before elections simply because I do not believe censorship ever helps solve anything. A bad idea can only be killed by a good idea, not by suppressing it, which destroys it only in the way that gasoline puts out a fire. I do not believe in banning surveys, but I do think survey-makers should have enough responsibility—or should be less greedy—to take it upon themselves to not publish surveys shortly before the elections. Frankly, I do not know why media keep helping them do so.

Those surveys serve no useful purpose. They do not educate, they do not uplift, they do not encourage voters to do what is right. On the contrary, they serve an utterly benighted end. They befuddle, they depress, they encourage voters to vote for the "sure winner." They goad people into acting like lemmings, or into throwing themselves off a cliff just because everyone is doing so. This is a culture where people do not want to be left out, do not want to be embarrassed (*mapahiya*), do not want to be thought of as *tanga* for being the odd-man-out. You tell them you have scientific proof one brand of detergent is preferred by 9 out of 10 *labanderas*, what do you think will happen? That is what those surveys do.

I do not particularly care that the candidates I like, and whom I am going to vote for, appear in them. Those surveys are the exact opposite of voter education campaigns, making popularity—or the fear of being ostracized, which is the electoral equivalent of the fear of having bad breath, or smelly armpits, that commercial ads prey on—the decisive criterion in choosing candidates. They are not merely descriptive, they are prescriptive. They do not merely predict, they entice.

I've only one piece of advice for everyone who will troop to the polls today: forget the surveys. Vote according to your conscience. Vote for the candidates you think will do this country good.

At the very least, that is so because this is one case where the surveys are probably just as good as your guess and mine. This year has been one grand roller-coaster ride with pretty steep ups and downs for the country generally. I myself thought at the beginning of the year that if Erap were acquitted last February or March, which was when the impeachment trial was expected to end, these elections would turn out to be a rout of Erap's forces. I thought we'd see a protest vote, the way we did in November 1971 when the nation voted against Marcos following the Aug. 21 Plaza Miranda bombing.

But Erap was ousted by Edsa II. I thought then that the People Power Coalition, being the party in power, would be put on the defensive, though it would still have enough clout to win the majority of seats in the House and Senate. Then came Erap's arrest, which rekindled the smoldering ashes of his popularity and—I thought with much dread—which threatened to raise like the phoenix the awesome voting bloc that had brought him to power. But suddenly, inexplicably, miraculously, the Puwersa ng Masa self-destructed, in a foolish attempt to extract more than votes from the seething restiveness of the poor that was "Edsa III." From being saviors of the *masa*, people who would fly to their side in their hour of grief, they became its betrayers, people who would send them to their graves in the hour of reckoning.

So what will happen in these elections? I do not know. And neither do the survey-makers. Which is why, here more than ever, I think those surveys are prescriptive rather than descriptive, interventionist rather than predictive. They are not telling us how we will vote, they are telling us how we should vote.

But more than that today's surveys are just as good as your guess and mine, you should forget them because you would be a fool to vote for a candidate simply because you think other people are going to do so. The logic there of course is that you would be a loser to vote for a loser, or you would be wasting your vote to vote for someone who is likely to lose. Which is the logic of voting for the "winnable" candidate. That is a logic that does not assail only the *masa*, it is one that assails the rich and middle class as well. I kept hearing it during the last elections, when people tried to persuade me to vote for Erap because he was sure to win.

Which brings me to the refutation of that logic. Which is Erap himself. You vote that way, and your candidate wins, by a landslide in the case of Erap: Do you win? I do not know that any lemming has ever won by throwing himself off the cliff simply because every other lemming is doing so. Maybe in the few seconds that he has before jumping and hitting the rocks below, he gets to be acceptable, if not popular, with the others who are also hurtling to their deaths. But that is all. Which is really the more wasteful or *sayang*: voting for the eminently deserving candidate the surveys say will not win, or voting for the candidate who sucks because the surveys say he will win. Which is the more idiotic or masochistic: voting for the less popular candidate who is likely to rule well and heal, or voting for the more popular candidate who is bound to lie, cheat and steal?

I for one do not particularly care what the surveys say about Bobby Tañada and Winnie Monsod. As far as I'm concerned, they will end up No. 1 and No. 2, not necessarily in that order. As far as I'm concerned, Bobby is best and Winnie can win. I figure the only thing that will keep them from being No. 1 and No. 2, not necessarily in that order, is our thinking they won't be so.

But more than that, in the end when you vote, you do not just vote for the candidate, you vote for yourself. "Vote for me," says the ABS-CBN campaign: that is true whether you think of "me" as your children or your own self. In the fitful peace or riotous quiet of that poll booth, you can vote to be a winner or loser. You can vote to be wise or foolish. You can vote with hope in your heart or fear in your mind. You can vote for the future or for the past. You can vote to not be ashamed of yourself before your children or you can vote to not be embarrassed before the *barkada*.

Forget the surveys, the choice is yours.

Namfrel and electric co-op pitch in for clean elections

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FINALLY the National Press Club or the group that purports to represent it as a citizen watchdog in today's elections has backed out of the ambitious quick count project. Voting 6-5, the NPC, in a special board meeting, decided to scrap the project after it admitted that it had no control over its volunteers and was unable to guarantee the integrity of the election results. One official said that many of the volunteers recruited were identified as "rabid supporters" of the opposition. New NPC president Louie Logarta, who took over the NPC management only last week, pointed out that backers had reneged on commitments to provide facilities and equipment for the quick count. Logarta also decried the lack of transparency in the project, stressing that the NPC board had been kept in the dark by the quick count advocates.

* * *

But all along, it should be noted that various media people and organizations were one in saying the NPC is not equipped to do a quick count. The admission of failings has unfortunately opened it to accusations that a segment has allowed itself to be used, in this case, obviously by the opposition. The damage to the NPC is lamentable. What is interesting, however, is why the Tancangco faction in the Comelec insisted on accrediting the NPC despite its obvious inability to conduct a project of such magnitude.

* * *

In the meantime, it was obvious that while the Tancangco group was eager to accommodate the NPC, it was bent on delaying Namfrel's accreditation despite its 40-year track record in elections. When pressure mounted to accredited Namfrel, Tancangco then got busy tying it down on technicalities. It looked like pure harassment. For instance, the Comelec ruled that Namfrel cannot bring out the results of its tabulations unless they are compared with the NPC's, never mind if Namfrel's results are based on hard copy. Unfortunately, every little controversy ate into Namfrel's time for preparations, the lack of which became more worrisome as the intramurals within the Comelec board worsened.

* * *

But finally election day is here and recently I had a chance to chat with Namfrel chair Joe Concepcion who stressed that Namfrel's 300,000 volunteers, who are each insured for P50,000, are ready to conduct a quick count in 1,608 municipalities in 79 provinces (there are 287,000 precincts nationwide). JoeCon said Namfrel's command center at the De La Salle University in Greenhills is ready with 200 phone lines and 17 regional lines; the National Capital Region alone has 17 tabulation centers, and one of the busiest will be the Assumption Convent Center for Makati's votes. JoeCon pointed out that 94 percent of the people want to exercise their vote.

* * *

Despite all the controversies that hampered its start, Namfrel is happy that for the first time this year, it will be furnished the fourth copy of the municipal and provincial certificates of canvass. This is a fantastic development, for as everyone knows, cheating at the polls has moved from the precinct to the provincial level, where only the three members of the provincial board of canvassers need to be corrupted. If Namfrel holds the fourth copy of the certificates of canvass, it is more difficult to do this.

At that radio program, it was also heartening to hear Luis Manuel Corral, secretary general of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) assure the people that the Apec's 119 electric cooperatives outside Metro Manila, which currently empower some five million households, will make sure that power will be maintained in their areas during the elections and for the counting. Power is absolutely critical, for all the hocus-pocus happens when an area is enveloped in darkness.

* * *

Recently, the AFP family was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden demise of Col. Saulito Aromin, 51, PMA Class of '74 and commander of the 103rd Brigade based in Basilan. Lito Aromin died of a heart attack last May 10 while participating in the golf tournament at the Edwin Andrews Air base in Zamboanga City, in connection with the Southern Command's anniversary. Aromin had been close to my husband, whom the former had served in the Second Infantry Division and in the National Capital Region Defense Command.

God, in His infinite wisdom, plucked Colonel Aromin from life as his career was about to peak—the coveted general's star was within reach. At the time of his death he had for over a year commanded the brigade that had fought the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, arriving there just after the kidnappings. His brigade was involved in the successful rescue of the teachers and young students victimized by the Abu Sayyaf, as well as other less publicized kidnaps. Lately he had been involved in stabilizing the peace and order situation in the seething island for the coming elections.

* * *

All kinds of pressures mounted over the months since the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf had apparently taken their toll on Aromin's health. Over two weeks ago, when his wife, Becky Maralit-Aromin, mother of his five children and herself a retired colonel in the AFP nurse corps (now an associate professor in the UST College of Nursing), visited him in Basilan, Aromin gave her an idea of the problems there. Later, perhaps as a way of rationalizing his lengthy stay in Basilan that kept him away from home, he told his wife, "But then, Basilan will always be Basilan."

* * *

I called up Aromin's former superior, Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, who used to command the First Infantry Division that saw action against the Abu Sayyaf in the Patikul and Basilan hostages (he is now commanding general of the Southern Luzon Command). Abaya stressed that because the post of 103rd Brigade commander is very sensitive, the AFP authorities are "very careful" in their choice of officer to head it. Abaya stressed that Aromin was a choice of both then AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes and SouthCom commander Diomedio Villanueva, the current AFP chief. He added that the AFP authorities couldn't have made a better choice, as Aromin was "a very capable officer."

With his sudden death, the military authorities are said to be considering asking President Macapagal to promote Aromin to one-star rank posthumously, in recognition of his distinguished service in Basilan. This is not without precedent. Aromin's PMA classmate, Col. Felix Cabreros, 102nd Brigade commander stationed in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, who also died suddenly of a heart attack, was decorated posthumously even though he had not yet been in the post for a year. The same was true of Col. Josefino Manayao, who was gunned down in Jones, Isabela last year and Col. Benito Alba, who died in a plane crash in 1993 while in the line of duty. We pray that President Macapagal promotes Colonel Aromin posthumously as he deserves it as few officers do.

The dangers of Edsa democracy

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

REMEMBER when, after Edsa II, some of us sneered at foreign commentators who speculated that extra-constitutional exercise could be bad for democracy? What's happening today, with "poor people power" posing a threat to the Macapagal administration's stability, is what the foreigners were apprehensive about.

On Jan. 23, 2001, in the aftermath of Edsa II, I wrote in the INQUIRER: "... Macapagal, suddenly, was President. Edsa II was almost too easy to be true." It was this ease in booting out a constitutionally elected president, the small-time and small-minded Joseph Estrada, that worried many observers, including this writer. If it's that easy to change presidents, then it can happen again. Or at least attempts will be made, even if not all will succeed as proved by the recent attack on Malacañang.

I don't claim to be able to fully fathom the minds of foreigners. But having lived in the United States for nearly three decades, I think I understand some of Western thinking.

For Westerners, process is as important as result. Democracy is a process. It's the interplay of people and institutions in a free, but responsible, way. It's the free interplay of responsible citizens and a responsive government. It's the intercourse of ideas and actions in a free and tolerant environment. It's the assurance of a free exercise of the rights of all citizens.

But the rights guaranteed by the democratic process must be exercised within the boundaries of a constitution, the Constitution. Edsa II was extra-constitutional, outside the Constitution. And being so, it continually poses a threat to the orderly, ordinary conduct of the republic's everyday affairs. It continually poses a danger because it can happen again and again. It continually presents a worry because it had set the precedent that it only takes 400,000 people and four days to change a president.

Those who defended the necessity, indeed the inevitability, of Edsa II were, of course, correct in claiming there was no other choice. Erap's obstructionist lawyers and the Erap senators, including dancing queen Tessie Oreta, made Edsa II imperative.

Process was no longer viable. Process was no longer an option. Process was no longer a choice. Edsa II had to come into play. And so, bereft of all options, the people went out in droves to continue Erap's impeachment in the streets, at Edsa.

There's no argument here, therefore, that Edsa II was not the answer. Denied all possible options, the people had to do something. There was no other choice. They went to Edsa.

But the Edsa route to settling political issues is not without its attendant dangers. And one of the built-in dangers of people power is the setting of a precedent, especially with the ease with which the people at Edsa II achieved their objective. It was like taking candy from a baby. It was a no-contest. Erap gave in easily.

And that was, to this writer's mind, Estrada's big mistake. When he left the sanctuary of Malacañang, in that tearful farewell, he dashed any hopes for a return, there was no coming back. That act, the exit from the Palace and the boarding of the barge, was his abdication. The king–king of the movies (with apologies to FPJ), king of the good time—was no more.

(Erap's biggest mistake? As I've written before, if he had only given flesh to his Erap *para sa mahirap* slogan, he would still be around today. If Erap had only thrown cold water on his salivating cronies eager to cash in and instead helped the poor put food on their tables, find jobs and have decent housing, he would still be president today. He could have told his cronies: "Give me the first two years to take care of the poor, and then you can have what you want." Ms Macapagal would still be vice president.)

Maybe it's easy for us to say that Erap should, when the more militant among Edsa II activists went to storm Malacañang, have stood his ground and fought to the end. Perhaps it's easy to say he should have had the balls to fight. Perhaps.

But one thinks it would have been more fitting for a pretender to machismo to bunker down and resist any attack to the death. It would have been more glorious to have gone down with a bang instead of going out with a whimper.

There's a history-making photograph of Salvador Allende, duly elected head of state of Chile, automatic weapon in hand, framed by the lofty columns of his presidential palace, shooting it out with the uniformed enforcers of a coup d'état. He died in the coup.

Mr. Estrada could have gone down a hero. And he would have spared the nation—and himself–the current tumult and agony.

It's not contradictory to say that people power was the logical denouement to the scuttled impeachment trial and to say that empowering a new president through people power is dangerous. Indeed, we're seeing the proof of the dangers inherent in "election" by people power. Cory Aquino paid for People Power I by having to stave off coup attempt after coup attempt. And Ms Macapagal today must contend with similarly grave threats by another, if different, people power.

(Here, we point out a difference between Ms Aquino and Ms Macapagal. Ms Aquino ran for president and was elevated to the presidency by people power in the public's belief that she won but lost in the count. Ms Macapagal was vice president when Edsa II sent her, without spending a single campaign centavo, to Malacañang.)

Of course, there was no choice but People Power I. Of course, there was no choice but People Power II. But, in the aftermath, we have to live with the threats that come with such acts that are taken outside the Constitution. "Poor people power" was the first such threat under Ms Macapagal's watch.

Leandro V. Coronel is a writer formerly based in Washington, D.C.

Suffrage is not the right to suffer

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SUFFRAGE is the only right granted by the Philippine Constitution given the honor of an article all by itself.

Article V gives the right to vote: "Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines, not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote, for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage."

The last line is emphatically egalitarian, even disturbingly so, by proclaiming that there is no substantive requirement imposed on the exercise of suffrage such as the ability to read and write or to own property. Only citizenship, age and residency are actually required to be qualified to register and vote. It seems to be a case of blind faith in the common denominator, and a vain hope that the masses will nevertheless elect uncommonly good, wise, honest and substantial leaders. We are thus constitutionally mandated to pray for mass miracles to recur every three years or so.

The decidedly disastrous results of Philippine elections past, such as the 1998 victory of Joseph Estrada, shows that democratic elections are a high-wire act done without safety nets. Society is perfectly capable of shooting itself in the foot, if not in the head, by bad choices at the ballot box. It's enough to turn anyone into an elitist.

Some of today's election results are likely to inspire all sorts of draconian measures to prevent our propensity to commit mass suicide as such. "Only taxpayers should be allowed to vote, or those with regular jobs. Only people with college education should be allowed. Only those who pass an IQ test, etc." But it is doubtful that the ideological equality built into the idea of suffrage can be overturned or access to the ballot box made more exclusive. Many streams of history, morality and justice support the principle of universal suffrage.

For example, the fact that sexual gender is not explicitly mentioned in the Article on suffrage, goes to show how much has been accomplished. It has been taken for granted by several generations, that, of course, women have the right to vote. But it was not always so.

Women did not acquire the right to vote in America until 1920, and only after a long and arduous civic struggle that lasted for more than a century. So things were not always quite so equal for everyone, even in the cradle of early American democracy. In their Declaration of Independence, the first truth held by founding fathers to be self-evident, that "all men are created equal...," may also have been taken quite literally, to the chauvinistic exclusion of the founding mothers.

The truth is that for a very long time in the 18th and 19th centuries, the vote in America was effectively limited to white, propertied and educated males. Women had to fight for the right of suffrage which was not firmly established until ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the American Constitution. But what truths were more self-evident or urgently important that 18 amendments preceded suffrage for the fairer half of humanity?

The category of "all men" excluded more than just women in the reality of American politics before the 20th century. The descendants of hundreds of thousands or millions of African Negroes, abducted and brought to America as indentured servants and slaves, did not acquire the vote until Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. In fact, African-Americans did not really gain effective access to the ballot until the massive registration and education drives of the 1950s and 60s civil rights movements led by Dr. Martin Luther King and others.

American Indians, and many racial and cultural minorities did not exercise their suffrage rights to the fullest in America until late in the 20th century. Even Filipino-Americans are only now beginning to exercise political muscle representative of their numbers and status in American society, just as every immigrant group before them has had to do. Even the white Anglo-Saxon males had to do that while fleeing religious and political oppression in England and Europe, eventually founding the nation that was to become America and the model for our own democracy.

Whatever inclusiveness American society can claim today, it was always fought for and hard-won, by previously excluded minorities and immigrants. Perhaps there is something to be said for having to fight for rights withheld by the tyrannies of history or accidents of birth. Filipinos are lucky. There is a whole Article V in the Constitution guaranteeing the right to vote, no matter if you are illiterate, destitute, or lacking in some other "substantive" measure.

Overall, the individual right of suffrage, as a tool for social salvation strikes me as overrated. At best, it is a sword that cuts both ways, as the lacerations of our recent history prove. At worst, suffrage has been taken advantage of by the masters of politics, as a means of securing not only the citizens' consent to be governed, but their acquiescence to be robbed and plundered. Suffrage has been distorted to mean our right to suffer.

The innovation of "people power" as an annulment of the ballot box by mass action, seems to be better suited to our own culture, mentality and habits. Even if there is only a thin line between that and "mob rule," as Edsa II and III demonstrated, it is the same line that divides and inspires the forces in the ancient fight between good and evil. So it will be a long time before any politician can hide behind the ballot box, as Estrada did, whenever their corruption and wrong-doing become manifest to a critical mass of the citizenry. Many who win election today, will face intense scrutiny from the citizenry before the next election. That is for certain. Inevitably, the guilty will fall.

PDI is neutral

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

TODAY is judgment day for thousands of Filipinos who aspire for elective national or local positions.

During the campaign period, the INQUIRER joined forces with GMA 7 to educate the voters on the proper exercise of their right of suffrage. In a week's time, we will know whether those efforts and those undertaken by other colleagues in the profession, have resulted in clean and honest elections.

It is unfortunate the newspaper was not spared from the illegal machinations of some unscrupulous politicians. Through the magic of computer technology, the easily recognizable INQUIRER masthead (or the name of the newspaper printed on top of the first page) and caricature of its in-house carabao ("Goyito") was scanned and superimposed on campaign literature that carried articles for or against certain candidates.

For instance, a Metro Manila mayoral candidate cut out the masthead, crafted an eye-catching headline, then wrote below it a derogatory report about another candidate. The font used was the same as that which the newspaper uses. These materials were later laid out and photocopied.

To the unsuspecting reader, the copy appeared to be a genuine reproduction of a news report published by the INQUIRER. There was little the newspaper could do about the misrepresentation other than inform the affected candidate that the alleged news clipping is a blatant forgery

Even if the INQUIRER wanted to run after the candidate whom it believes is responsible for the dirty trick, it could not do so because there was nothing in the campaign material that would prove his participation in the act.

Duplicate copy

Another candidate came up with a more scandalous idea. He reproduced the front page of the March 7 issue of the newspaper. Below the masthead appeared the headline "Jovy asks Gloria: Stop political dynasties." The "Jovy" referred to is former Senate President Jovito Salonga whose photo accompanied the headline.

Beside the "news" supporting the headline were the pictures of the candidates who were accused of establishing political dynasties. The likeness of "Goyito" was placed near the pictures and made to appear it was uttering unflattering statements about the candidates.

Capping the misrepresentation was a disparaging article written by a certain "Santy Yorac." It was bad enough the writer falsely represented himself or herself as a reporter of the INQUIRER, worse, the article was badly written.

Through this column, the editor in chief would like to inform the public that the INQUIRER is neutral in this election. It does not promote or oppose the candidacy of any candidate or party-list group. Any campaign material that gives a contrary impression is false and therefore should not be believed.

The newspaper will appreciate getting information from the readers about candidates who exploit its name and prestige to further their political ambitions so it can take appropriate legal measures against them.

Wrong photo caption

The INQUIRER's May 7 issue featured on the front page a photo of Hong Kong-based Filipino domestic helpers who held a rally during their Sunday break.

The caption read: "Not homesick are these Filipinos who joined hundreds of domestic helpers and other OFWs at a rally in Hong Kong to denounce President Macapagal's crackdown on Edsa III participants. (See story on Page A3)"

The story on Page A3 bore the headline "HK Pinoys slam Erap in rally." The report dwelt on the denunciation by the OFWs of deposed President Estrada and their demand that his political allies be arrested to account for the consequences of the bloody May 1 riot.

The contradiction between the photo caption and the news did not escape the eyes of many readers. The most critical letter was sent by Mochan (mosquito@crosswinds.net) who wrote: "This is very bad, sloppy work. I see mistakes in newspapers every day, but this one is so glaring, so completely misleading, that it cannot be forgiven. It's the worst mistake I've seen all year, a shining example of erroneous writing."

The editor in chief readily admitted the newspaper made a mistake in the wording of the caption. Indeed, the news report did not match the caption.

She explained that the photo, together with the caption, was sourced from Reuters, an international wire news service. Later that night, after the front page had been cleared for printing, the staff read a report on the same incident written by the Associated Press which was inconsistent with the caption.

The staff immediately ordered a halt in the printing of the edition that carried the erroneous caption. A "remat" (or change in the presentation) was made on the caption to correct it.

The correction was reflected in the subsequent editions of the May 7 issue. But it was too late to correct or retrieve copies of the earlier editions which had been delivered to the newspaper dealers in the provinces and parts of Metro Manila.

The INQUIRER apologizes to the readers for the inaccurate photo caption.

Subjective caption

Two days after the bloody Mendiola riot, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited former President Estrada at his custom-built Sta. Rosa prison house. The meeting was featured at the front page of the May 4 issue of the INQUIRER.

Below the photo were the words "Reconciliation, it is not, according to the Palace of the visit of President Macapagal to her predecessor as there's no personal enmity between them. Note Estrada covering his signature wristband that still bears the presidential seal."

Apparently, the caption did not sit well with "omi gosh!" of talakitak@yahoo.com who wrote "...every time I read the front page, especially the captions in the pictures published, you always put meaning in it. Why??? Do you know the inner feeling of that person? Or do you have the qualities of a mind reader to know what's in the mind of the people you feature on the front page?

"Sample: when you have pictures of former President Estrada, whenever he was pictured on a bad angle, you always put meaning on that angle. And this time, the way Mr. Estrada covered his wristband, you put meaning in it again. What if it just happened that he accidentally covered it?"

Reacting to the letter, the editor in chief explained that in the preparation of a photo caption, the staff looks at the totality of the picture and the circumstances behind it. Experience and gut feeling often determine the wording the caption will take.

In the case of the May 4 photo, the staff believed that, looking at Estrada's face, it was reasonable to assume that he deliberately covered his wristband out of respect to President Macapagal. He further showed his courteous demeanor toward her when he addressed her "beloved President."

The editor in chief underscored that Estrada may be guilty of all the crimes that he had been accused of, but one thing is definite—he can be very gracious in dealing with women.

Collegian reunion

Attention former staff members of the Philippine Collegian, the official student newspaper of the University of the Philippines. This year's grand reunion will be held on May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman campus.

For more details, please call, fax or e-mail the secretariat at 920-5301 (local 6640) or kule@peyups.com.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

LETTERS

Also pray for peace in our land

FOUND the new "prayer for the elections" campaign by ABS-CBN very inspiring. It showed several young artists who offered a prayer for today's elections. Being a first-time voter myself, the prayer campaign pushed me to strive to make the right decision who to vote for.

I believe that the youth of today have proven their love for our country, putting aside the "old notion" that they have no regard for what is happening to the Philippines.

I myself am offering a prayer to help restore peace in this country. True, it may be a hard task to do, but like the prayer said, if we all hold hands and set our personal interests aside—we can make a difference.

It is not difficult to make our ideals a reality…if we only know how to believe.—**JANINE DURAN, Assumption College, Makati City**

Journalism isn't child's play

MEDIA'S (in)action before and during the Edsa III uprising was dismal, to say the least. It was more of a breach of its sacred duty to report events as they unfold.

True journalism is a dangerous craft. The upholders of truth should never slink like a wounded kitten to a corner but instead rush head-on to face any situation, no matter the risk, to serve as a sieve to filter fact from fiction.

Never mind the physical threats to life, limb and property. A committed journalist, whether in print or in broadcast, has to do his/her duty in between dodging bullets, truncheons and stones. News reporting is not a child's game where one can say "*Ayaw ko na*" even before the game is over.

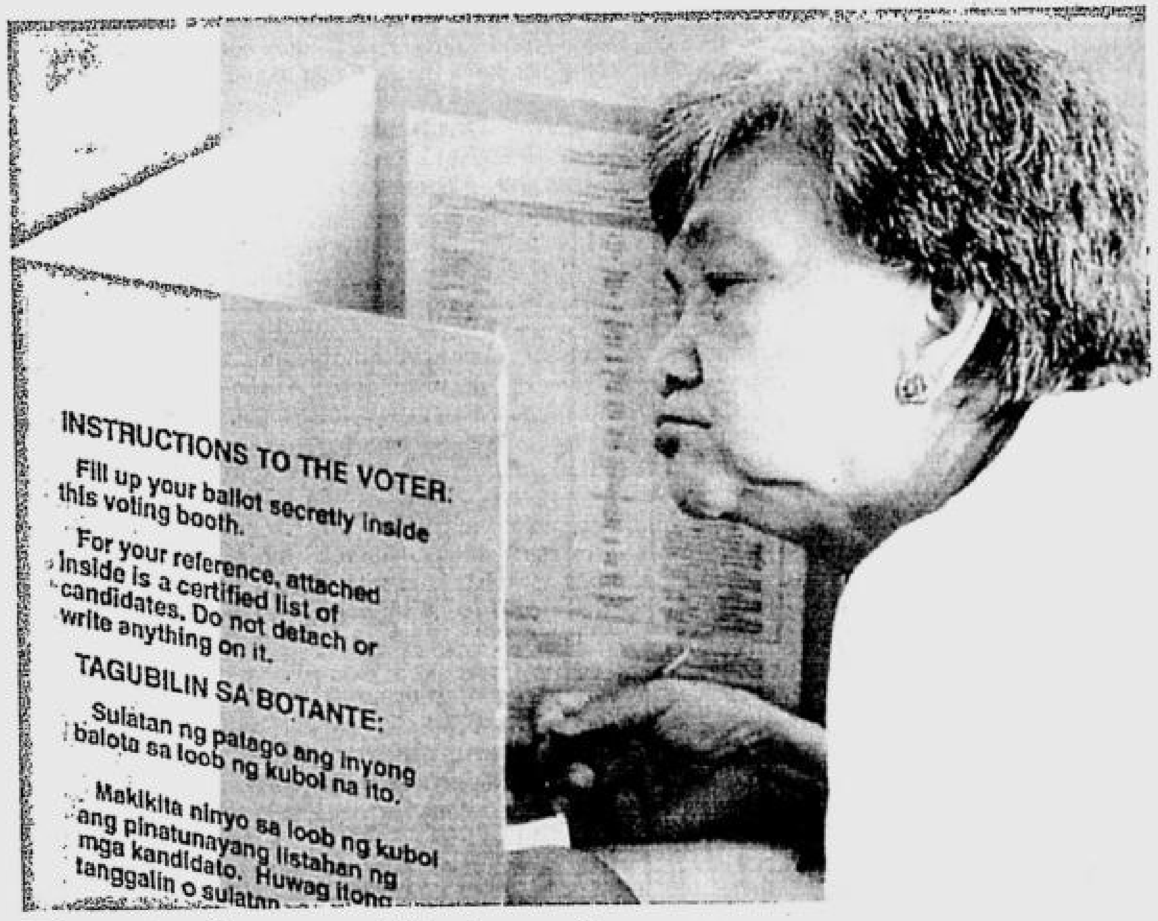
It hurts to admit our shortcomings and it is even more painful to try to correct them. But we should be man enough to resolve to grow up and simply do the task we are mandated to do no matter what side we are on.

The suspension of the broadcast of dzEC and Net 25, amid threats of armed reprisal, smacks of cowardice.

Censorship is the refuge of scoundrels; professional and honest commitment to the tenets of journalism is the shield of freedom.

Filipino journalists in Edsa I and II did the nation proud.

Edsa III did the journalists in: What a shame.—**JOSE G. BURGOS JR., Barangay Tartaro, San Miguel, Bulacan**


INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER:
Fill up your ballot secretly inside this voting booth.
For your reference, attached inside is a certified list of candidates. Do not detach or write anything on it.
TAGUBILIN SA BOTANTE:
Sulatan ng palago ang inyong balota sa loob ng kubol na ito.
Makikita ninyo sa loob ng kubol ang pinatunayang listahan ng mga kandidato. Huwag itong tanggalin o sulatan

Time to show gratitude and anger

TODAY is an opportune time to express our gratitude to our incumbent public officials for the service they rendered during their incumbency. This is also the best time to get back at those politicians who did not do what they promised before they got elected. Let us not vote for them to express our disgust. We need to vote wisely this time. In choosing our national leaders, are we still going to be deceived by their sugar-coated speeches? Are we going to vote for those who once betrayed the trust we gave them? Are we going to reelect the politicians who tried to cover the wrongdoings of other people? Let us think about these issues many times before we cast our ballots. This election is the best time to show our gratitude and anger.—**JERICO R. FRANCISCO, 28 Mulawin St., Panghulo, Malabon, Manila**

Unfair to small and medium enterprises

I DISAGREE with your May 7 editorial, "Neglect of SME workers." Based on a lawyer's reading of the situation, it is grossly unfair to our small and medium enterprises.

First, the "rubber-slipper mass" who manned Edsa III and assaulted Malacañang consisted of people from the informal sector or the underworld, not SME employees. SME employees are closely supervised and could not have been at Edsa and Malacañang for five days.

Second, it is not true that SME employees are neglected. SMEs are usually managed by their owners who not infrequently treat their employees like members of the family. Informally, SME employees enjoy benefits not available to employees of large, impersonal corporations, such as rent-free small loans, free snacks, free lodging, birthday gifts, subsidized goods, etc.

Unlike large corporations, SMEs are the ones which fully bear the mounting minimum wage burden. In many cases, only the hiring rates of a large corporation are affected by a new base pay order. In the case of SMEs, all their employees are usually covered.

Another point: SMEs are more vulnerable to the labor inspectors of the Department of Labor and Employment. SMEs do not have the legal muscle or PR resources of large corporations which can drive away labor inspectors.

Third, the difficulties of SME employees cannot be remedied by labor law enforcement, unionism and collective bargaining, or labor legislation. Globalization has rendered these measures obsolete. These measures will scare away foreign investors upon whom our government relies for capital to develop this country. Foreign investments go only where there is "best practice," i.e., where the highest return on investment is assured at the least costs in wages, taxes, welfare entitlements and the like. If we implement the prescriptions of Ramon Jimenez, Moody's and Standard and Poor's will further downgrade the Philippines as an investment destination.

What this country urgently needs is a firm national consensus, perhaps in the form of a binding legislation, on what to do to make globalization work for all Filipinos and not only for the Makati Business Club. One step which immediately comes to mind is a form of labor-management cooperation designed to make Filipino-owned enterprises competitive—at least in our own country.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Seamen detained in UAE set for release

WISH to take exception to a news article in the INQUIRER last May 3, 2001 titled, "Seamen wives, kin fault UAE envoy," which said that the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Embassy in the United Arab Emirates had not done much to help them.

I wish to inform the public that 0 Filipino seamen were detained in January 2001 for participating, directly or indirectly and in connivance with the finance director of their company, in defrauding several banks in the United Arab Emirates to the tune of 80 million in Philippine pesos.

The DFA, upon learning of their detention, immediately authorized the embassy to hire a lawyer in the amount of $2,500 and provided a standby fund of $3,500.

I called on a high official of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the chief prosecutor to appeal strongly for the release of the detained seamen on humanitarian grounds since their families in the Philippines are solely dependent on them for support. Likewise, I called on officials of the affected banks and appealed for compassion.

We have been informed by the Office of the Public Prosecution that it has dropped the case against the seamen on humanitarian grounds and recommended their temporary liberty. Their temporary release requires that they be taken to the Asma police station for a review of their case which will then be elevated to the Presidential Court (Diwan) for final decision. As in all other cases, the Diwan follows the recommendation of the chief prosecutor.

The wives of Captains Castillo and Sulayao and the mother of Alvin Tayao who are in the UAE are being assisted by the embassy. Ms Tayno is staying at the embassy, monitoring the case of her son. She entered the country upon the embassy's representation.

The embassy is working hard so that the process of releasing the 30 seamen from detention will be shortened and they can resume their work with their company.—**AMABLE R. AGUILUZ III, ambassador, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Amazed by 'Youngblood' talents

AM constantly amazed by the talent shown by contributors to the Youngblood section.

I would like to inform the contributors who are unable to complete their college education due to financial hardship that the Asuncion Perez Foundation may be able to assist them.

Interested parties should write or fax lawyer Teodoro Bernardo, Central United Methodist Church, 900 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila (Telefax: 524-5211).

Youngblood contributors who have completed their bachelor's degree and who want to work in the United States, Canada, Australia or New Zealand should send their resumés, college transcripts and cover letters to Soc Tiongson, HR Solutions, 50 Sampaguita St., Valle Verde 2, Pasig City.—**MARIA LUISA PEREZ, 553 Holy Cross St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City**

Overdue PVAO benefits for ailing spouse

I AM writing in behalf of my widowed and ailing mother, Agnes C. Jacob, regarding her overdue death benefit pension (as surviving spouse) and disability pension. My late father, retired 2nd Lt. Domingo Jacob Sr., was a former member of the 20th BCT Peftok in Korea (1951-52), a veteran of World War II and a retired officer of the Philippine Constabulary. He died on July 8, 2000 at the Philippine Veterans Hospital.

Upon the death of my father, we submitted all the pertinent requirements at the offices concerned at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). After a few months, my mother received a letter from the Finance Division of the PVAO, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, informing us of the approval of the death benefit pension and saying that a check for my mother would be mailed after she got the letter.

Sad to say, as of this date, my mother has not received the death benefit pension from August,2000 to December 2000. And her disability pension from July 2000 to the present. She wrote the PVAO a followup letter but it has been unanswered up to now.

It is impossible for my mother to personally follow up the overdue benefits she should have been getting. She is old and diabetic. And she is financially hard up.—**MILAGROS JACOB RESUENA, c/o Philippine National Bank, Naga City**

More awards needed?

THERE are awards aplenty annually for civil servants. They form part of government's recognition for work done well or exemplary behavior. The major ones are the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Award for consistent dedicated performance; the Outstanding Public Service Award or Dangal ng Bayan Award for consistent observance of a norm of conduct specified by law; the Outstanding Skilled Workers in Government Award or Katangitanging Bihasang Manggagawa Award for demonstrated exceptional skills and performance; and the Civil Service Commission or Pagasa Award for dedicated performance by an employee or group of employees.

But of more than a million civil servants, how many are conferred these awards each year? The answer will depend on how many employees are nominated by their agency heads who are perpetually enjoined to submit at least two nominations a year for each award category.

Can the government be more magnanimous to its workers?—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

SSS has enough funds for members' benefits

THIS is in reference to the letter of Sylvia Reganit last March 12, 2001. Reganit alleged that the Social Security System denied her salary loan application because it has no more funds.

The SSS has enough funds to cover benefit payments of its members. It has on hand P27 billion in cash and government securities to cover benefit payments and other obligations to its 23 million members all over the world. As of end 2000, total assets have reached more than P181 billion.

The SSS has guidelines on salary loans. A member can avail of a salary loan if he/she has paid at least 36 monthly contributions and up-to-date in the payment of contributions and loan repayments.—**JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

North Koreans take 'underground railroad' to freedom in South

FEATURE

Bill Tarrant

SEOUL—Facing forced repatriation to North Korea and public execution, Joo Sang-min and his wife sat in a Chinese jail last year and talked about slashing their wrists with razor blades hidden in their clothes.

But a bribe to a jailer secured the release of the 57-year-old doctor, his wife and their four children and the family spent several harrowing months traveling an Asian "underground railroad" to freedom in South Korea.

They were among the record 312 North Korean defectors who arrived in South Korea last year from third countries, many of them aided by a clandestine network of Christian missionaries, Buddhist charities, civic groups and profit-seeking middlemen.

Some 135 defectors have already arrived in the first four months of this year, as increasing numbers of mostly privileged members of North Korea's communist totalitarian state flee hardship and repression.

A total of 1,444 North Koreans have defected to the South since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, half over the last five years as North Korea plunged into famine and economic collapse.

"We knew for certain we would be publicly executed if we were brought back to North Korea," said Kim Soon-hee, the doctor's wife. "We knew because we had witnessed these executions."

Like thousands of other North Koreans, the Joos (their newly adopted surname) had often crossed the shallow Tumen River bordering China to get food and do a little business on the side.

Aid groups estimate there are between 150,000 and 300,000 North Korean refugees scattered around the hills and plains of Northeast China and Mongolia eking out a living.

"The estimates differ because aid groups can't share information due to risk of arrest from Chinese security," said Rev Im Hyang-ja of the Korean Institute for Mission Strategy.

This time, the Joos had with them their teenaged son, who had taken unauthorized leave from the army. Chinese authorities were alerted and the family soon landed in jail.

The Chinese warden, his palms greased by one of the refugee aid groups, freed the family at the border—warning them not to seek refuge in local homes for they would surely be turned into the authorities for a reward.

The family hid out in the hills nearby "eating nothing but snow for two days," before stealing some money and taking a taxi to the nearest town, Soon-hee said.

Ethnic Koreans provided money and directions to Christian missionaries, who gave the Joos forged travel documents and helped them travel by bus and train through southern China and into "a Southeast Asian country."

"We had no knowledge of Christianity before this," said the doctor, newly resettled with his family in an apartment complex in a leafy Seoul neighborhood. "We didn't even know who God was. In North Korea, they teach us that religion is like opium."

The family crawled under a border fence into the Southeast Asian country and had another adventurous trip to a South Korean embassy in a neighboring country, again aided by missionaries.

They darkened their skin with charcoal and wore native clothing to avoid detection. At one point, they were reported to local authorities and the missionary who was escorting them changed cars three times to shake off pursuers in the ensuing chase, Joo said.

Most defectors find their way to Kunming and Nanning in southern China, cross into Vietnam, Laos or Myanmar and then seek temporary asylum in other Southeast Asian countries.

The church groups were reluctant to give details about their "underground railroad," fearing it would endanger operations.

"One of our missionaries was in jail for six months in Vietnam for helping North Korean refugees," said the Rev Lee Suh, a Presbyterian pastor in Seoul.

North Korea began waging a campaign of repression in 1999 against groups working with refugees in China, said Im.

"There is a leader of the underground church in North Korea, but it's a very sensitive issue," she added.

A US State Department report on human rights in North Korea said "members of underground churches have been killed because of their religious beliefs and suspected contacts with overseas evangelical groups operating across the Chinese border."

Missionary groups say North Korea does allow some "authorized" churches and Buddhist groups to operate, but they are believed to be mostly fronts to receive food aid.

The North's chronic food crisis—aid agencies say up to two million may have died of malnutrition and related diseases since 1995—has turned a trickle of refugees into a flood, raising alarms in Pyongyang about anti-regime activity across the border.

Those that make it to South Korea are almost always privileged members of the North Korea's "workers' paradise."

"Ordinary North Koreans don't come over," said Suh, noting it takes considerable cash to fork out the bribes and others costs of making the arduous journey.

"These are people who have been criticized by the state or feel betrayed by the state," he said.

Kim Myong-hwan (his new identity) arrived in Seoul in 1999 and shares a small two-room apartment with his 18-year-old son, who now attends prestigious Yonsei University in Seoul.

Dressed in a black suit and clutching a handphone, Kim has the short, wiry build common among North Korean men, testifying to the low-calorie diet and hard-labor lifestyle of the North.

Kim said he was a foreign exchange dealer and trader for a business owned by North Korea's People's Army, which often took him across the border to China. But one time, he tried to do some business with relatives and was arrested by Chinese police.

Kim said he escaped by jumping out a window of a jail and began wandering. "In China, there are lots of beggars. I was one of them for several months."

He sneaked into Vietnam, but was deported back to China, where he "hid out for a year" in a church, which reunited him with his son, who had also left their homeland.

Newly arrived defectors spend a year at the Hanawon (Unity) reeducation camp in Seoul where they are taught English, computer skills, how to order fast food, wear cosmetics—basically how to function in a capitalist society.

After "graduation," they are given $30,000, a subsidized apartment and two years of police protection, apparently to ensure they are not spies.

Increasingly, the defectors are being resettled outside Seoul to relieve the burden on the Seoul government and police.

Religious and civic groups are also taking a bigger role in resettling the defectors, as the escalating number of arrivals strains government resources.

For the new arrivals, it is a far cry from life in the North.

Kim, who now sells healthcare books, says North Koreans are numbed and exhausted by the lives they lead in the totalitarian state of 22 million people.

He is still trying to adjust to life in the South—the bewildering number of English words in the language, the profusion of choices and commercialization, even watching how you joke with women.

"This leads to severe isolation among the defectors," said Im. "It's like they've formed their own sect...They don't know how to manage their freedom."

Lee, the defecting doctor, made the same point.

"Things are so free here," he said, wearing a polo shirt and nylon athletic pants and seated on the linoleum floor of his sparse apartment. "You can do anything as long as it's legal. That's awkward for me." *Reuters*

The WORLD

Rebels reject Macedonia unity gov't; truce broken

A MASKED Macedonian policeman in a bunker aims a machine gun at the ethnically mixed village of Mateiche, some 36 km northeast of the capital Skopje May 13. REUTERS

NEAR VAKSINCE, Macedonia—Macedonian tanks pounded ethnic Albanian guerrilla positions Saturday, after the formation of a government of national unity failed to calm tensions in the fragile Balkan republic.

"We knew that they would continue fighting and ,we are sending them a message that we will continue fighting as well. We have no other alternative. Macedonia is facing a brutal aggression," Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said.

"The new government is being created in order to deal with this situation. The goal of the new government is to provide stability to the country," he said, in a televised address.

As he spoke, 25 kilometers further north, on a windswept stretch of cornfields separating the northern town of Kumanovo from the rebel-held village of Vaksince, Macedonian T-55 tanks fired shells at suspected guerrilla positions on the outskirts of the settlement.

Rebels responded to each blast with a burst of machine-gun fire, while clouds of yellow smoke and dust were kicked up around the village by shells and mortars fired at intervals by the army, which showed no sign of preparing to advance.

Army officers spoke of killing "several" guerrillas in the bombardment, but defense ministry spokesman Georgi Trendafilov said that the government had no accurate casualty count.

"We destroyed a terrorist group between the villages of Slupcane and Vaksince," he said. "This was probably a mortar position because we had come under fire from 82-millimeter mortars." *AFP*

Anwar claims he was denied day in court

KUALA LUMPUR—Lawyers for jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim Sunday rejected the official reason for the dropping of all remaining charges against the former Malaysian deputy premier, saying he was denied his day in court to refute the allegations.

Rais Yatim, minister in the prime minister's department, was quoted by the New Sunday Times as saying the five charges were withdrawn as Anwar was already serving a 15-year jail term.

"It is known publicly that Anwar had been tried and sentenced to 15 years' jail.

"From the view of the attorney general (Ainum Mohamad Saaid), she may have thought of the severity of the sentence and there was no need to continue with other accusations," Rais said.

But defense lawyers said Anwar is innocent and rejected Rais' explanation, the first from the government.

"Our view would be which we have maintained all along that Anwar is innocent and there is no evidence to support the charges," Sankara Nair told AFP.

Nair described Rais' remark as the official line by the government since prosecutors Saturday did not give any reasons for dropping the four charges of sodomy and one of corruption.

"Anwar feels cheated. It is unfair since the charges have defamed him. Without doubt, Anwar thinks it (the charges) is a political conspiracy to annihilate his political carrier," Nair added.

Anwar was previously jailed for six years for abuse of power and nine years for sodomy after lengthy and controversial separate trials. The sentences run consecutively.

State prosecutor Azhar Abdul Hamid told the high court Saturday the five charges were being dropped but offered no reason for the move.

"I shall make an order of acquittal and discharge against Datuk Seri (honorific) Anwar Ibrahim on all the five charges," said Judge Augustine Paul.

Lim Kit Siang, chairman of the opposition Democratic Action Party who welcomed the decision, said prosecutors owed the public an explanation for their action. *AFP*

Chemotherapy unjustified at times, says study

SAN FRANCISCO—About one third of patients with late stage cancerous tumors derive no benefit from chemotherapy treatments, a US study published Saturday indicated.

"While use of the chemotherapy in responsive cancers is understandable and may shrink the tumor and offer palliation, providing chemotherapy to patients with unresponsive cancers is hard to justify," said the study's lead author Ezekiel Emanuel, an oncologist and bioethicist at the National institutes of Health.

The researchers studied nearly 8,000 cancer-related deaths in Massachusetts and discovered that responsive and unresponsive cancers were treated with virtually identical chemotherapy regimens, suggesting an "overuse" of the difficult and exhausting treatment.

"Providing chemotherapy at the same rate to tumors that are not chemotherapy-responsive as to those that are chemotherapy-responsive strongly suggests overuse of chemotherapy at the end of life," Emanuel said in a statement issued from the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology here.

The reasons justifying the use of chemotherapy even for non-responsive cancers were not quantifiable, the researchers admitted. But that fact did not mitigate their calls for "reconsideration of the use of chemotherapy at the end of life by the oncology community. *AFP*

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   - *One (1) 1 kg pack*
   - *One (1) 500 g pack*
   - *Three (3) 45 g Litro packs*
   - *One (1) 1.25 kg pack*
   - *One (1) 750 g pack*
   - *Two (2) 250 g pack*
   - *Ten (10) 22 g Single Serve packs.*
3. The participant should write his/her name, complete address, contact numbers and signature with the name of the store where he purchased Eight O'clock in a piece of paper and enclose it in a white long letter envelope together with any of the above proof of purchase combinations, and drop it in drop boxes located in supermarkets and local ABS-CBN stations or mail them to ·

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4. There will only be one (1) draw to be held in ABS-CBN's MTB variety show. The raffle draw will be on August 8, 2001.
5. The entries will be separated according to area, as follows: GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO.
6. All entries will be drawn in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.
7. Shall any conflict arise from the drawing of entries, the decision of the Sugarland and/or Agency representative will be deemed final subject to the concurrence from the DOH-BFAD representative.
8. For the grand prize, there will be four (4) winners for the Toyota Revo, each coming from the different areas. The store where he purchased the product will receive P10,000.00.
9. The consolation prize winners will also be drawn according to area.
10. The consolation prizes are as follows :
    - *Two (2) winners of P100,000.00 in GMA*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Luzon*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Visayas*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Mindanao*
11. The grand draw and corresponding cut-off date is as follows:
    DRAW DATE : AUGUST 8, 2001 / CUT OFF DATE : JULY 30, 2001
12. Winner's will be announced over ABS-CBN'S MTB variety show and will also be published in newspapers and notified by registered mail as to where and when they can claim their prizes
13. The winner should bring 2 valid IDs with picture and the letter/telegram from Sugarland when claiming their prizes
14. The winner will be responsible for the registration and insurance of the vehicle and the shipping of his/her prize if needed.
15. A winner can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the other prize.
16. Prizes are not convertible to cash and are not transferrable.
17. All prizes are subject to tax & should be shouldered by the winner.
18. Winners will be required to be photographed for advertising and publicity purposes.
19. Prizes not claimed after ninety (90) days from receipt of notice will be forfeited upon prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
20. Employees of Sugarland Beverage Corporation, La Tondena Distillers and San Miguel Corporation, its Distributors, advertising and promo agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
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MEMBER, PANA TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

Israeli choppers attack car, kill 2 Palestinians; 'hit' condemned

PALESTINIANS walk past a poster May 13 reading "Coexist" using the Islamic half moon, the Jewish David Star and the Christian cross at the outer wall of Jerusalem's old city at an artists' exhibition. REUTERS

JENIN, West Bank—Chanting cries of revenge, some 10,000 people attended the funeral Saturday of two Palestinians—including a well-known militant killed in an Israeli helicopter attack, the Palestinians claimed was an assassination hit.

A Palestinian was also killed Saturday from Israeli tank fire into a refugee camp south of Gaza City and eight others were injured, two seriously, Palestinian security and hospital officials said. Israeli military sources said the tank fire followed ongoing shooting on Israeli forces from Palestinian police positions inside the camp.

Meanwhile, a 13-year-old Israeli girl was lightly injured from shrapnel when Palestinians fired into an Israeli village from the West Bank, the army said.

Saturday's incidents capped off another bloody week of fighting, as Palestinian officials headed to Washington for meetings with US officials in search for ways to end the violence.

Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, is planning to meet with US secretary of state at the beginning of the week, according to Hasan Abdel Rahman, the PLO's representative in Washington.

Abdel Rahman said Palestinian officials hope this meeting would lead to a White House invitation for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has yet to meet with US President George W. Bush.

Unlike the previous administration, the Bush White House has been reluctant to play an active role in Mideast peace brokering.

"We would like to see greater American involvement in the political discussions, not just on security issues," said Palestinian planning minister Nabil Shaath.

The double funeral of two Palestinians killed when Israeli helicopters fired a barrage of rockets on a car carrying four members of the armed wing of Arafat's Fatah faction drew massive crowds.

Moutasem Sabaa, 26, a well-known gunman, was killed in the attack along with Ala'a Jaloudi, a Palestinian policeman who was standing nearby.

Chanting "Revenge! Revenge!" the mourners marched through the West Bank town of Jenin where the attack took place.

In the attack, the first rocket missed the car and three other members of the armed militia, known as Tanzim, were able to escape without serious injury, including Abdel Karim Awais.

Fatah officials in Jenin say they suspect Israel's main target in the attack was Awais, 30, who leads a group of local gunmen and is planning mortar shellings of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Awais, like many Fatah activists, also serves as a Palestinian intelligence officer.

Sabaa, who was also a well-known gunman, suffered from a past leg injury, and was unable to get off the car before the other rockets hit.

The car was hit by at least five rockets, witnesses said. Israeli authorities did not comment on the incident.

Palestinians have held Israel responsible for the pinpointed killings of more than a dozen Palestinians suspected of involvement in shooting and bombing attacks in the past seven months.

"This is state-sponsored terrorism," Shaath, the Palestinian minister, said.

In the attack, at least 17 people were admitted to a local hospital and treated for shock and shrapnel injuries.

The Fatah movement distributed a leaflet calling for revenge for the attack.

Fatah leaders from Jenin warned they had mortar shells and would be targeting Jewish settlements in the West Bank. To date, mortar shellings have been launched only from the Gaza Strip. *AP*

COMO

US crooner Perry Como dead at 88

WASHINGTON—International recording star Perry Como has died at home after a lengthy illness, US media reported Sunday.

CNN television reported that Como died in his sleep at home in Jupiter, Florida early Saturday afternoon.

Como's daughter, Terry, had seen her father the day before his death, and told The Palm Beach Post: "We spent two beautiful hours together with dad, me and my grandson, Holden. We shared ice cream. It was a wonderful moment for us."

Como recorded dozens of hit albums beginning in the 1950s, in a lengthy recording career that spanned at several decades and became the very embodiment of the "easy listening" music genre.

Como is considered the third in a triumvirate of legendary American crooners, along with singing and film stars Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra.

The baritone warbler also was the host of numerous televised Christmas musical specials "The Perry Como Show" which were considered must-see viewing for millions of Americans over the years.

The seventh of 13 children, Pierino Ronald Como was born in May 1912 in the mining town of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a child as a barber's apprentice, serenading his customers as he cut their hair.

Singing was mostly just a hobby until he landed a steady gig in 1933, touring regionally with the Freddy Carlone Band. It was a first break that ultimately led to more impressive contracts with bigger name orchestras, until he ultimately appeared as a regular at venues like the Copacabana and Versaille nightclubs. *AFP*

Australia, NZ soldiers exposed during A-bomb tests, records say

SYDNEY—Australian and New Zealand military personnel may have been deliberately exposed to excessive radiation levels during atomic bomb tests, Australian government archives reveal.

The document was released to public scrutiny by Australia's National Archives at the weekend, and shows more than a third of 76 personnel involved in British atomic tests here in 1956 received radiation doses greater than the maximum "permissible exposure" of 0.3 roentgens over the course of a week.

One serviceman registered a 0.66 reading after just a few hours of exposure at a test site. Other servicemen have told how they were sent to "ground zero" within an hour of the detonation of an atomic device without protective clothing.

The records support claims by British academic Sue Rabbitt Roff, who alleges troops were deliberately exposed to radiation during nuclear tests conducted in Australia's outback in the 1950s.

Her research found 24 men had been chosen from among 250 British, Australian and New Zealand officers and civilians as test subjects.

The Dundee University professor told Australian media: "The British Government lied in court on the issue of whether or not British, and Australian service personnel had been used deliberately for human experiments during nuclear weapons tests."

Retired Army Maj. Alan Batchelor was present during nuclear blasts at Maralinga, and says there is no doubt servicemen were exposed to high levels of radiation, often just meters from what had been "ground zero" an hour before.

"We had to go in and uncover equipment shelters that were located somewhere between 100 and 150 meters away from ground zero," he told ABC radio.

"We would do that commencing at about one hour afterward, without protective clothing."

Other men walked, crawled and drove through a fallout zone after an explosion to test the effectiveness of protective clothing. *AFP*

Wahid unconcerned about impeachment

WASHINGTON—Indonesia's beleaguered President Abdurrahman Wahid is unconcerned about potentially being impeached despite two successive censure motions by his parliament, he told a US news magazine.

"The majority of the members of Parliament don't like the impeachment," he told Newsweek in an interview for Monday's edition.

"If they decide to go ahead with it, the people will rise up."

Wahid was expected to reply before the end of the month to an April 30 censure, the second in three months, as his critics continue to accuse Indonesia's first democratically elected president of failing to rescue the ailing economy and halt regional unrest.

Wahid emphatically rejected expanding a power-sharing agreement to relinquish the power of appointment to his vice president Megawati Sukarnoputri—his likely successor—as "there is no guarantee that someone (else) will uphold the rule of law."

Both a Cabinet team and lower house speaker Akbar Tanjung have advocated a clear division of executive powers between Wahid and Megawati as the least disruptive way out of the political stalemate. *AFP*

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China arrests 7 priests

BEIJING—China has arrested seven priests and destroyed two underground churches, expanding its ongoing anti-crime "Strike Hard" campaign to include those who worship without government approval, state media reported Sunday.

Police in the Muslim-populated Xinjiang region in western China shut down the churches and arrested its leaders last month while also confiscating "illegal" religious audio cassettes and books, according to a brief report in the state-run Xinjiang Daily.

The report did not give details other than that the crackdown was part of the nationwide "Strike Hard" campaign, which was launched in April.

The campaign initially targeted organized crime gangs, but spread to include those accused of robbery, drug trafficking and participating in separatists activities.

At least 500 people convicted have been executed in the campaign's first month. The campaign also involves arrests that do not lead to executions.

China only recognizes religious groups that have registered with the government and received permission to exist. *AFP*

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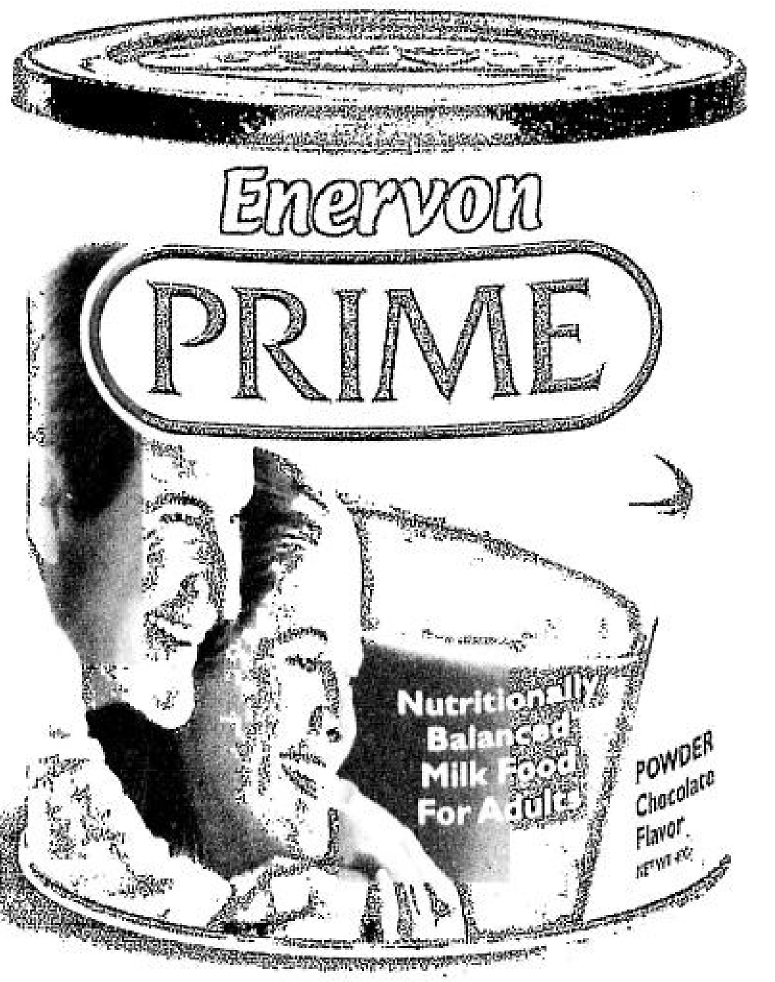
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Comelec says it's ready for polls

BY THE PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU AND CENTRAL LUZON DESK

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The elections would push through after all the rumors that they won't.

It is all systems go for Monday's elections in Northern and Central Luzon, the Commission on Elections and the police in the regions said on Sunday.

Minor hitches, were, however reported on Sunday as teachers who were tapped for poll duties beat their deadlines in securing election paraphernalia in various Comelec offices in the regions.

In Northern Luzon, improved weather conditions were experienced in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera on Sunday as tropical storm Crising slammed out to Taiwan.

Rains stopped in most parts of the regions as Comelec personnel started transporting election materials to remote areas in Northern Luzon in preparation for today's elections.

Lack of IDs

In Central Luzon, Comelec regional chief Nicolas Fontelera, however, admitted that they lack ID cards for accredited poll watchers and for media persons, and statement of votes.

The first to suffer in the shortage of ID cards are watchers of party-list groups. They will have to improvise their own cards, with Comelec officials authenticating these.

Fontelera allayed fears of disorder in today's voting, saying all election materials have been delivered to six Central Luzon provincial offices of the Comelec since Friday.

Teachers doing poll duties in 2,991 centers and 22,607 precincts in the region and Aurora have been "adequate," he said, without citing any figures.

No poll execs

Except for three towns, the composition of the boards of election inspectors in the region's nearly 120 towns and cities has been completed.

Municipal election officers in Balagtas in Bulacan and in Masantol and Magalang in Pampanga have either resigned or were relieved since Friday.

Cristina Marquez, Balagtas election officer, declined to serve, saying she has received threats from the New People's Army, Fontelera said.

There is no election officer in Masantol because no one among Comelec personnel there wanted to take the post. "They are all afraid," Fontelera said.

In Magalang, Comelec officials, acting on complaints of candidates, relieved the municipal election officer who allegedly rigged the list of voters.

UNDER the gun. Ballot boxes for delivery to precincts in Mindanao get one of the tightest security measures the military can provide. BOBBY TIMONERA

Official blank ballots have been delivered to far-flung villages since Saturday but there have been no reports of snatching, Fontelera said.

Serapio in Bulacan

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police director, said they have received instructions to secure lawyer Edward Serapio when he votes today in Obando, Bulacan.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER said Serapio will vote in Barangay Panghulo in Obando.

Serapio, a lawyer of former President Joseph Estrada, has been detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City as one of those charged in Estrada's plunder cases.

In Nueva Ecija, the Comelec has directed the provincial election supervisor to transfer the canvassing of votes of the 46 precincts in 10 barangays of Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Immediately after the close of today's voting, all ballot boxes in Barangays Bungo, Bulac, Putting Ilog, Macabaklay, Kapalangan, Marillo, Mangino, Mabulac, Mahipon and Maburac will be transferred to a private high school in the poblacion of Gapan for the counting.

These villages are far from the poblacion, some of them are near the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

The Comelec, in an *en banc* resolution, affirmed the disqualification of former Mayor Nestor Magno as mayoral candidate of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

In its decision, the Comelec said Magno failed to present new evidence that would warrant a reversal of the second division's decision disqualifying him.

The Comelec disqualified Magno based on a complaint by a San Isidro resident that the former mayor had been convicted of direct bribery.

In another development, Rep. Julita Villareal of the third district of Nueva Ecija formally announced her withdrawal from the congressional race.

She filed her letter of withdrawal with the office of the provincial election supervisor on Thursday afternoon.

The two-term congresswoman, who was running for reelection under the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) party, said she was instead supporting the candidacy of her husband, Raul, for the post.

Northern Luzon

Hitches marred the preparation of election paraphernalia and ballot boxes in Isabela (voting pop: 576,942).

In Cauayan City, at least 100 official ballot stubs were found to have different serial numbers. "It was a machine error," said lawyer Manuel La Castillo Jr., Cauayan election officer.

Ballot boxes and election paraphernalia were distributed Sunday by municipal treasurers to members of the board of election inspectors.

For the 3,623 precincts in the Cordillera (voting pop: 649,839) 10,869 teachers have been tapped to help count the votes after 3 p.m. today.

The Comelec will send 4,584 teachers to 1,528 precincts in Ilocos Norte. Three teachers will man the board of election inspectors in each precinct, Pipo said.

Noli Pipo, Ilocos Norte election supervisor, said the Department of Education, Culture and Sports has assured the presence of their personnel despite the delayed release of funds to cover the services of teachers on Monday.

The teachers are expected to get P900 each for their services. They will receive additional P900 should they go past the 12-midnight deadline in counting the votes.

In Baguio City, Comelec officials have assured a peaceful and smooth conduct of today's elections.

Teachers assigned to 624 precincts in the city (voting pop: 117,063) started getting their election materials Sunday morning.

In Benguet, National Movement for Free Elections officials in the province said they are prepared to undertake the quick count in today's elections.

Fr. Roland Astudillo, Namfrel provincial coordinator, said they have prepared for more than a month and have tapped volunteers from various church and youth groups and community-based organizations in their quick count. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Cristina Arzadon, Kira Espino, Villamor Visaya Jr., Maurice Malanes, Myriam Garcia, Shannaleigh Picar, Abigail Pajarito, Pamela Herrera and Cesar Marquez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mindanao braces for cheating

THE CATHOLIC bishops of Davao, Digos, Tagum and Mati have organized a pool of volunteers who would keep watch over possible schemes to cheat and commit fraud during today's elections.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said the bishops have tapped the services of lay members of the Church and constituents of the Association of Barangay Chairs in Davao City and in the provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental for the *dagdag-bawas* watch.

Capalla, former chair of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, said the *dagdag-bawas* watch group will be extra vigilant after the closing of the precincts and late in the evening when the counting of votes starts.

He said as experienced by the Namfrel, people behind the *dagdag-bawas* scheme usually operate during the transport of election returns for canvassing and during canvassing late in the evening when poll watchers are already tired and sleepy.

He said they will also keep a tight watch on canvassing in far-flung towns and in the provinces because it is in these areas where *dagdag-bawas* is likely to take place.

"If you have money, you can do all these tricks, some people did it in 1992 and they are now senators," Capalla said but declined to identify who these senators are.

Capalla expressed fears that cheating may come in other forms than those already known to watchers.

"I know the power of money. The power of money can overcome many, even morally principled people," he said.

He added that with the "flood of money" that is expected to flow today, some people might find it difficult to resist bribe.

In Cagayan de Oro City, two Air Force C-130 planes delivered ballots and other election paraphernalia for Northern Mindanao Saturday.

Lawyer Carlito Ravelo, election officer for Misamis Oriental, said the election paraphernalia were for the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Occidental and the two Lanao provinces.

"We are ready for Monday's election. Everything is here already," Ravelo said.

He said representatives from political parties were at the Lumbia airport to witness the delivery of election paraphernalia to the provinces. *Jowel Canuday and Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Batanes Group of Islands will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 35° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 25° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao Hi 33° Lo 23°
Laoag Hi 32° Lo 25°	Clark Zone Hi 35° Lo 25°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 24°
Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 26°	Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cebu Hi 33° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 26°	Gen. Santos Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 34° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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POLL BODY ON HIGH ALERT

Fraud, vote-buying hound Visayas

BY THE PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

POLICE and military authorities in the Visayas went on full alert yesterday amid reports of massive vote-buying, sighting of armed goons and plots to employ fraud in today's elections in at least five provinces.

In Tacloban City, reports said vote-buying has started since Saturday evening. Votes are reportedly being bought from P20 to P1,000, depending on the position of the candidate buying votes.

In Northern Samar, practically all candidates have resorted to vote-buying, sources said.

In the town of Lavezares, supporters of a mayoral candidate handed out P200 to buy votes. The money started to flow at midnight Saturday, sources said.

In San Jose town, supporters of another mayoral candidate gave out P1,500 to residents.

Sources said the candidate's supporters delivered the money "door to door." They started to give an initial amount of P800 on Thursday evening and an additional of P700 was given the following night.

In Maasin City in Southern Leyte, voters from Barangays Bogo and Mambajao have been getting "goodwill money" since Saturday night.

The amount varied between P300 for voters and P500 for ward leaders allegedly handed out by supporters of a reelectionist congressman.

In Negros Occidental, the militant group Bayan issued a press statement yesterday expressing fears of electoral fraud, especially in the fourth district after 40 ballot boxes were allegedly seen in the property of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco in Pontevedra town.

Rep. Carlos Cojuangco, Eduardo's son, is running for reelection in the district.

Comelec provincial Supervisor Cirilo Nala immediately ordered an investigation but Supt. Geary Barias, police provincial director, said his investigation showed no ballot boxes were missing in the province.

The younger Cojuangco yesterday said spreading all these rumors about lost ballots and armed men knocking on people's doors does not help any in making people "participate in the elections."

In Negros Oriental, newly designated provincial police director Supt. Druscilo Bolodo said the police are closely watching Canlaon City, which has been placed under Comelec control, and few other areas in the province.

Some 100 joint forces from the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police were deployed to Canlaon after the ambush-slaying of Vice Mayor Jose "Ondo" Cardenas, an administration candidate for mayor, and five others, according to outgoing police director Supt. Voltaire Calzado.

In Iloilo, policemen and soldiers have also been deployed to San Joaquin town on Saturday after the killing of mayoral candidate Jesus Sibya Jr. allegedly by the incumbent mayor, Sebastian Serag.

In Eastern Visayas, the PNP and the Armed Forces maintained a high alert status in two cities and five towns that have been placed under Comelec control: The cities of Calbayog in Samar and Maasin in Southern Leyte; and the towns of Silago, St. Bernard, Sogod, Tomas Oppus and Bondoc, all of Southern Leyte.

Major Gen. Rufo de Veyra, commanding general of the 8th ID of the Philippine Army, admitted they have yet to dismantle private armed groups in the region.

De Veyra said soldiers would patrol areas where the Communist Party of the Philippine-New People's Army is active.

The Regional Elections Monitoring Action Center in Eastern Visayas has listed 54 areas in the region that are either classified as "immediate areas of concern" or "areas of concern."

In Northern Samar, two Army battalions and five companies of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were added to the existing police force in the 24 towns of the province.

Police and military authorities were particularly paying attention to two towns, Lope de Vega and Lavezares.

Army authorities were also verifying reports on the presence of armed groups operating in the towns of Allen and Lavezares, where Vice Mayor Armando Chan was ambushed and wounded Jan. 30.

There was also a report that armed men believed to be soldiers on AWOL (absence without leave) sowed terror in some villages of the Sierra islands in Catbalogan, Samar.

In Maasin, police sent reinforcement teams to at least four hinterland villages because of the reported presence of armed men believed to be rebels.

Tension was high in northern Cebu following the report of a clash between a team of six policemen and NPA rebels in a hinterland village in Tabuelan town Saturday night.

Tabuelan was among seven Cebu towns recommended for Comelec control.

Maj. Michael Manquiquis, spokesperson of the Visayas Command (Viscom), said they were prepared to deploy more troops to the seven towns.

Two companies of soldiers were already sent to northern Cebu.

Alleged harassment by armed men was also reported in southern Cebu town of Santander by mayoral candidate Wilson Wenceslao (Alayon) who claimed that armed goons of reelectionist Mayor Arnold Abines (Promdi) harassed him and his supporters by blocking their convoy of vehicles past 3 p.m. of Friday in front of the Promdi headquarters in Barangay Pasil.

In Naga town, tension ran high between supporters of vice mayor and mayoral candidate Paulino Ong (Promdi) and reelectionist Mayor Ferdinand Chiong (Alayon) yesterday over the guarding of ballot boxes inside the town hall. *Cynthia Borgueta, Carla Gomez, Jani Arnaiz, Vicente Labro, Joey Gabieta, Romy Amarado, Alex Pal, Nagiel Banacia, Tonton Antogop, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops seize 192 firearms in W. Visayas

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Western Visayas posted the highest number of confiscated firearms nationwide in the ongoing implementation of the election gun ban, police here announced on Thursday.

In a briefing of the Regional Peace and Order Council, Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police regional director, said the firearms were seized after the gun ban was implemented at the start of the election period on Jan. 2.

The number of confiscated firearms reached 192, including 91 high-powered firearms and four grenades. Police also arrested 198 persons, including five soldiers for violating the gun ban.

Under Commission on Election rules, all persons are prohibited from carrying firearms without a written permission from the poll body during the election period that will end on June 13.

All regular members of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police are also barred from carrying firearms unless they are in full uniform, in the actual performance of their duties in the areas designated in their mission order approved by the commander and in going to or returning from their residence or barracks.

The number of confiscated firearms is expected to increase as police have tightened their monitoring after receiving reports that gunrunners are transporting guns to politicians especially in areas with intense political rivalry.

At around 9:20 p.m. on Monday, police seized 13 brand new homemade handguns from two men in a motorcycle at a checkpoint in Barangay Dawis, Pototan town, 34 kilometers north of here.

Police arrested Johnny Reyes and Jimmy Ramos, 32, both from Kalibo, Aklan after the unlicensed .38 caliber handguns were found inside a traveling bag of the suspects.

The suspects tried to evade a team of policemen at the checkpoint but were stopped when they got near the second team, 100 meters away.

Charges of illegal possession of firearms and violation of the election gun ban would be filed against the suspects who were brought to the PNP regional headquarters at Camp Martin Delgado in Iloilo.

The suspects told police investigators the guns were from Cebu to be brought to Aklan province.

"Most probably, the guns were meant for politicians in the coming elections," said Supt. Victor Boco, Iloilo police director.

Boco said they have put up checkpoints to preempt the transport of guns after earlier receiving reports that guns will be transported to the Fourth District of Iloilo, covering Passi City and the towns of San Enrique, Dumangas, Dingle, Barotac Nuevo, Anilao, Dueñas, and Banate.

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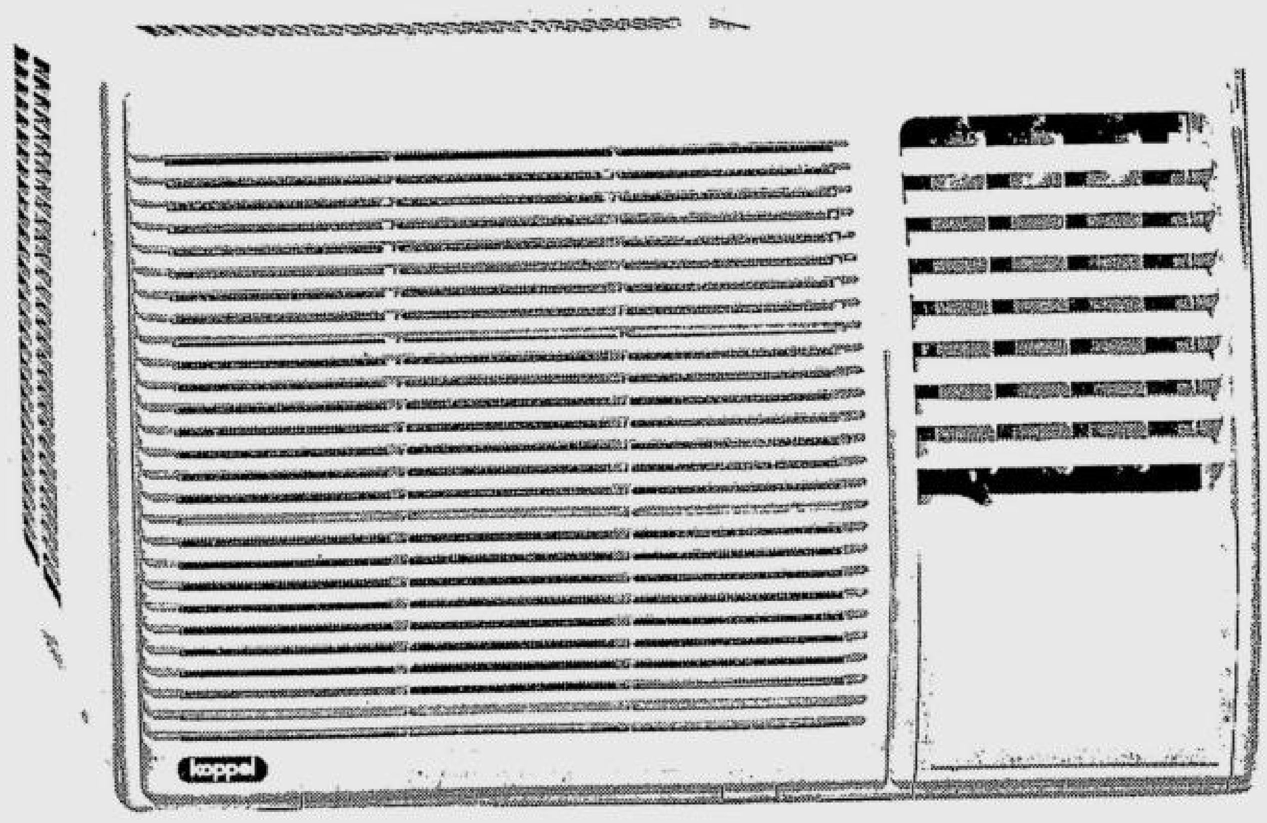

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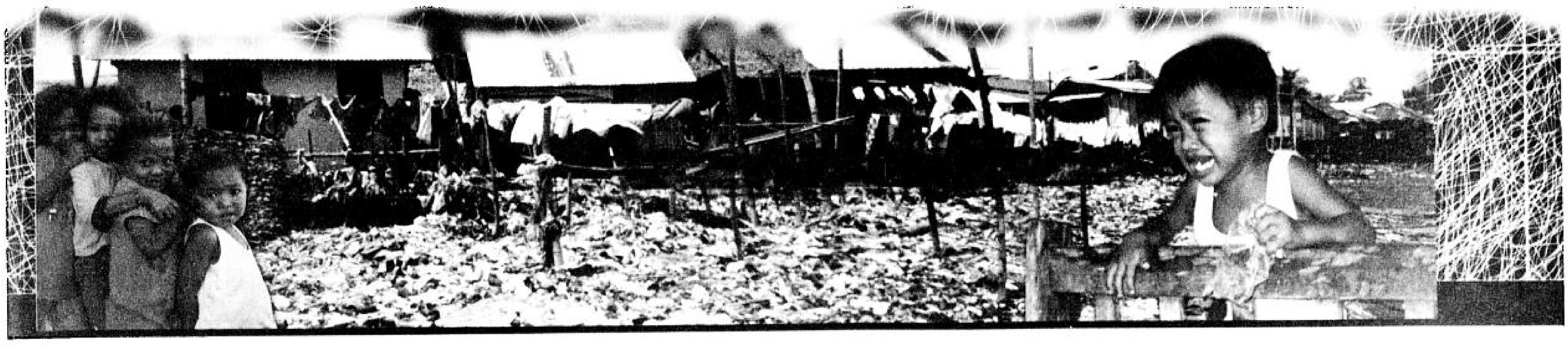

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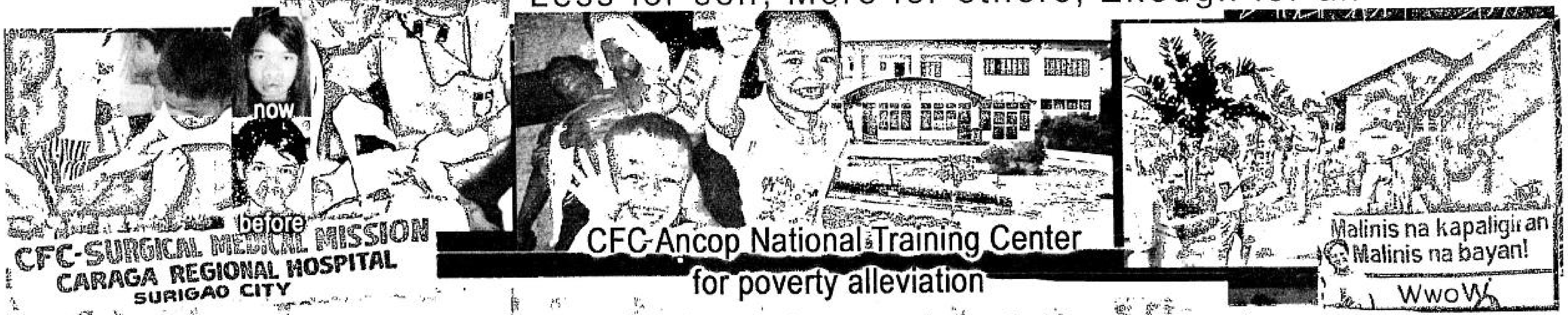
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CAMARINES ENCOUNTER

Troops securing polls clash with rebs

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Army's Task Force 202 Halalan 2001 in Bicol clashed with at least 10 heavily armed New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Inuyunan, Camarines Sur and arrested two rebels in Barangay Mailad, Jovellar, Albay, during the week.

Col. Pendatun Guro, AFP Bicol spokesperson, said government troopers encountered the rebels while conducting election security operations.

Guro said after the 25-minute gunfight the rebels withdrew toward the mountains, dragging with them their wounded comrades.

He said the guerrillas, however, left several high-powered firearms and ammunition, consisting of an M-16 Armalite rifle, two .45 caliber pistols, fragmentation grenades and live bullets as well as jungle packs and other personal belongings.

The military official said the task force also arrested two NPA members in Barangay Mailad, Jovellar, Albay.

Guro identified the arrested suspects as certain Ka Randy and Ka Boyet.

Also seized from the suspects were a .45 caliber pistol and a .38 caliber revolver.

In San Pascual, Masbate, a candidate for municipal councilor was apprehended for violating the Comelec gun ban.

The suspect was identified as Renante Arezala of Barangay San Pedro.

Recovered from the suspect's house were seven unlicensed high-powered guns.

Guro said the Army's task force has been deployed to some troubled areas to prevent election-related violence.

He added that the battalion-size units of soldiers are ready to face rebels fielded by some politicians to harass, intimidate or even kill political leaders, supporters and candidates of their rivals.

Army intelligence reports revealed that in some towns of Albay, armed men believed to be goons of a candidate confronted some voters to force them to stay at home today if they would not vote for a congressional candidate they are supporting.

The goons were reported to have threatened the residents with harm if they went out to vote for their candidate's rival.

In Iriga City, a leader of a Lakas-NUCD candidate for mayor in the city was apprehended at 1:30 a.m. yesterday in Barangay La Medalla for allegedly buying votes, a police report said.

The report identified the suspect as Esperidion Ramboyong Jr., a member of the Manny Alfelor for Mayor Movement.

He was caught by a certain Jojo Cerillo and Oscarlito Dacara, leaders of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, distributing P500 bills to voters in Barangay La Medalla.

Police authorities also recovered from Ramboyong a fragmentation grenade, a Kenwood handheld radio with a battery pack and paper containing the list of persons who were given the money.

Ramboyong is now detained at the Philippine National Police office in Camarines Sur for further investigation. *Juan Escandor Jr. and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

6 MILF rebs killed in Lanao

ILIGAN CITY—Six suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels were killed while a soldier was wounded in an encounter in Munai, Lanao del Norte yesterday.

The military said it believes the rebels' presence in the area was meant to influence today's voting in favor of their candidates.

The MILF had announced it was not endorsing any candidate in the elections.

"The rebels did not expect the soldiers to be there. The presence of the soldiers were unexpected in the area," Col. Samuel Bagasin, chief of the Army 402nd Infantry Brigade, said.

Bagasin said the soldiers were sent to Munai to enforce Comelec control when the encounter took place in Sitio Tactical in Munai at 10:05 a.m. yesterday. *Rex Godinez Ortega, Froilan Gallardo and Bobby Timonera, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bishop urges voters: Use conscience

DAGUPAN CITY—Stressing the need for a better government, the immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has called on Catholic faithful in vote-rich Pangasinan to vote according to their good sense and conscience.

In a pastoral letter read Sunday during Mass at the St. John Cathedral here, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan diocese urged Pangasinan voters "to elect into public office those who will love and serve us—not those who instead indulge in self-love and self-service."

The two-page letter was expected to be read in English and Pangasinan languages in all churches and chapels in Lingayen-Dagupan diocese on May 12 and 13.

"Let us vote for those who lead a good moral life, who are competent for the public office they seek, and who have a work ethic in terms of working much and working well," Cruz said.

During the Mass last weekend, he released three practical ways to consider when voters go to their respective precincts on May 14.

"One, be resolved to vote according to our good sense. Two, be ready with our personal list of whom to vote for because there are many blanks to fill in the ballot form. Three, be early at the polling place," he said.

Cruz said the Catholic Church has mobilized volunteers representing the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) not only to help people vote but also conduct a poll watch to make sure that votes are counted.

"Love can give us harmony and peace, build us into a great people and develop us as a nation of justice, unity and prosperity . . . We can manifest our love if (we do) our duty on Monday . . . to prove that our democracy works," he added.

The Church has played an active role in politics following the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

In the 1998 elections, the Church issued a supposed guideline for voters to follow in choosing their presidential candidate.

Short of identifying Joseph Estrada, the guidelines advised voters against electing a president who womanizes and has many vices.

The guidelines, however, were not effective as Estrada went on to win the presidential elections with about 10 million votes. *Gobleth Moulic and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Outstanding Capiz folk get awards

ROXAS CITY—Thirty-three Capiceños were honored Saturday as outstanding citizens during the city's 50th anniversary as a chartered city.

The honorees led by Justices Josue Bellosillo of the Supreme Court and Roberto Barrios of the Court of Appeals received the Distinguished Service Awards during the program Saturday morning at the Roxas City plaza bandstand.

Roxas was converted into a city on May 12, 1951 by virtue of Republic Act No. 603 signed by President Elpidio Quirino on April 11, 1951.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, grandson of first President of the Republic Manuel Roxas in whose honor the city was named, received a special award for integrity and public service.

One of the two awardees in the field of journalism was Gerry Pagharion, correspondent of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in Capiz. Pagharion shared the award with Fe Villarruz, editor of The Capiz Times, a local newsweekly.

Other awardees were Teresita Gavino for architecture; Jose Balcena for arts and dance; Ofelia Rendon for culture and history; retired Roxas City Superintendent Socorro Mejorada and superintendents Artily Inocencio of the Roxas City Division and Elnora Barrios of the Capiz Division, for education; Neciforo Israel, for entrepreneurship; and former city mayor Juliano Alba for local governance.

Awardees in the field of medicine were Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo, a noted cardiologist and international lecturer and Dr. Abundio Balgos, a consultant of the Philippine General Hospital.

For social services, cited were Lina Laigo, former social welfare secretary, and James Sian, manager of the Disaster Management Service of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Two representatives from non-government organizations were chosen awardees—Josefa Argos of the Gerry Roxas Foundation and Flor Taleon of the Capiz Women Inc.

In the religious field, the awardees were Rene Hontiveros and Socorro Alvarez, noted lay leaders in Capiz, while Onilda Dasal, Evelyth Gamboa and Rita Villareal received the award for winning the Metrobank Search for Outstanding Teachers.
PDI Visayas Bureau

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2 disqualification orders ruled 'not final'

Votes for Leyte, Laguna candidates to be counted

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo ordered election officers in Leyte to count the ballots cast for congressional candidate Carlos Romualdez despite an earlier ruling by the poll body disqualifying him due to lack of residency.

Romualdez, son of reelectionist Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez and brother of reelectionist Rep. Alfred Romualdez (1st district, Leyte), is running for the congressional seat of Leyte's second district.

Adolfo Ibañez, Comelec regional director for Eastern Visayas, said he was ordered by Benipayo to comply with Comelec Resolution No. 4116 which allows the tallying and counting of votes of a candidate who has a pending disqualification case due to non-residence.

"Considering that the motion for reconsideration filed by (Carlos Romualdez) is pending resolution by the commission, you should comply with (Paragraph) 3 of our Resolution No. 4116," Benipayo told Ibañez in a May 10 marginal note.

The marginal note was written on the end of the last page of the four-page Comelec Resolution No. 4116 that was faxed to the Comelec regional office here.

Ibañez yesterday told the INQUIRER that he would comply with Benipayo's directive.

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 4116 states that "where the ground for the disqualification case is by reason of non-residence, citizenship, violation of election laws and other analogous cases and on the day of the election the resolution has not become final and executory the BEI (board of election inspectors) shall tally and count the votes of such disqualified candidate(s)."

Resolution No. 4116 was promulgated by the Comelec *en banc* on May 7, 2001.

Last April 30, the municipal trial court in Burauen, Leyte ruled that the names of Carlos, his wife, two children and their housemaid should be removed from the list of the registered list of voters of Burauen, Leyte on the ground that Carlos is not a bonafide resident of the town.

On May 3, the Comelec First Division chaired by Commissioner Rufino Javier ruled that Romualdez should be removed from the list of voters of Burauen and disqualified from running in the congressional race for his failure to comply with the required one year residency immediately preceding the elections.

The decision, however, was not executory and was subject to appeal.

Romualdez, 42, a nephew of former first lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, is running under the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

Before his transfer to Burauen, Leyte, which is one of the towns under the second district of Leyte, Romualdez was residing at 113 Mariposa Loop, Barangay Bagong Lipunan ng Crame, District IV, Quezon City.

Currently, he lists his address as No. 935, San Jose St., Barangay District III, Burauen, Leyte.

Carlos, a political neophyte, is running against Leyte Vice Gov. Trinidad Apostol, wife of outgoing three-term Rep. Sergio Apostol (Lakas, 2nd district, Leyte), and Nora Petines, an independent.

In Laguna, the Comelec ruled that the disqualification order against Gov. Teresita 'Ningning' Lazaro was not final and executory.

Lawyer Dioscoro Pajutan, Comelec provincial officer, told the INQUIRER that although the disqualification decision was issued by the Comelec's Second Division, it was not final.

"And since Lazaro's lawyers have filed a motion for reconsideration, the governor's candidacy is still intact. Her votes will still be counted (during the election)," Pajutan said.

Lazaro's camp called the disqualification case part of the dirty tricks of the governor's rivals.

Lazaro, former vice governor of Laguna, became Laguna governor after Jose Lina Jr. was appointed interior and local government secretary after the ouster of Joseph Estrada as president. *With a report from Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BANTAY HALALAN
MINDANAO 2001
REGION X

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

HI-TECH WATCHDOG
Computers and computer operators are on the ready for their roles as watchdogs in today's elections. Such a set-up was prepared in Mindanao in preparation for the counting and canvassing of votes after today's balloting.

MAGNET FOR BETS

Support of cults plays key role in polls

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A week before the May 14 elections, candidates here are scampering to gain votes from local religious groups and cults because of their track record of bloc voting.

Candidates here are reportedly courting the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), which boasts of an estimated 10,000 voting members in Nueva Vizcaya, and the religious cult Vucal na Pananampalataya (VNP) here which has at least 3,000 members

During the 1998 elections, the local INC endorsed the bids of three candidates

The three candidates received solid votes from INC members, giving them an edge over their rivals.

That same year, the religious cult VNP, which established a communal village in Señora Falls in Barangay Bansing here, contributed bloc votes for an incumbent mayor who is now running for vice governor as an independent candidate.

The VNP, headed by a certain Dominador de Guia, known to his followers here as "Cuoya Doming," has been loyal to a lawyer-candidate because of the candidate's role as the cult's counsel on tenurial rights and environmental cases since 1958.

VNP's area, where most of its members now live, was awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under a stewardship contract that is renewable for 25 years.

"Because of its (VNP) attribute as a solid group for political support, many local candidates are courting its members and their leader to gain support during the elections," said Genaro Basilio, chief of the public affairs and information assistance division of the provincial government.

Politicians here said one who gets the group's endorsement has "good chances" of winning because of the number it represents, excluding the votes they would receive from other supporters in the villages.

"*Mabalin nga pagrubwatan met daytoy nga suportada gapu ti panagmaymaysa da nga mangibutos ti kayat da nga kandidato* (Their support can be considered as 'take-off points' because of their unity in voting their chosen candidates)," claimed a politician here who admitted being called by local INC leaders in one of its services.

Candidates court the support of INC and VNP members because it is easier than the usual house to house campaign, another candidate said.

"This will save interested candidates their time, money and effort because one will just present themselves before the members upon the invitation of their leaders. But I think this will just be a factor and not conclusive to determine their victory. *Parang* barangay *din yan*, silent majority," the candidate said.

In national politics, the support of religious groups like the INC and the El Shaddai, which both claims to have millions of faithful followers, are considered precious commodities for candidates.

Candidates running for national positions court the support of big religious groups in the hope that these groups' leaders' endorsements would give them an edge.

Candidates for senators, especially, consider the support of these groups as valuable.

Recently, the INC, which is known to compel its members to vote for particular candidates, has endorsed an 8-5 lineup for the Senate in favor of the People Power Coalition.

The endorsement came after President Macapagal-Arroyo paid a visit to the INC.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada was one of the national politicians who courted the support of religious groups heavily.

During his impeachment trial and at the start of the Edsa rally that led to his ouster, Estrada was able to organize a rally of El Shaddai, Jesus is Lord and INC members to demonstrate support for him.

The religious groups, however, failed to muster enough support to keep Estrada in power.

Even the head of the El Shaddai, Mike Velarde, was linked to hundreds of millions of pesos in shady deals that were consummated during Estrada's short-lived stay in power.

Teachers in the line of fire during polls

NAGA CITY—Education Secretary Raul Roco paid tribute to public schoolteachers yesterday, saying the teachers are the persons voters could rely on for clean and honest elections.

As Roco issued the statement, a militant teachers' group opened election hotlines to give legal and medical assistance to teachers who will encounter trouble during election duty today.

But Roco said on election day, the Commission on Elections takes responsibility for the teachers, not the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Rey Tesorero, provincial coordinator of the Bicol Concerned Teachers Alliance (Bicta), said teachers in the region who would need medical or legal assistance may call the hotlines set up by the Bicta—299-3600, 299-3336, 655-0329, 621-1289, 655-0224 and 09194271727.

He said these hotlines will be open 24 hours today to respond to teachers' calls and accept reports on violation of election laws and human rights of teachers who are on election duty.

Tesorero said the hotline was conceived from the lessons of previous elections where teachers' problems during election day were hardly addressed.

He said among the cases the militant group has documented include that of teachers in Naga who were accused of cheating on election day.

Tesorero said the fee given to the teachers does not compensate for the risk they face while performing poll duties.

He said the teachers were given only P900 a day and not P1,000 as they demanded from the Comelec.

Tesorero said in many cases teachers who are assigned to isolated areas have to start working starting yesterday. Election duty, he said, would take up at least three days of the teachers' time.

But he said teachers get compensation only for two days.

However, Tesorero said the Government Service Insurance System has granted the teachers insurance coverage of up to P100,000 should they meet accidents or die during their poll duties.

He said the arrangement was negotiated with Roco and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers last week.

In Catanduanes, the Comelec tightened its control over the province two days before today's elections.

Ma. Juana Valeza, Comelec special task force chair, issued five memorandum orders canceling all exemptions to carry firearms and permits to carry firearms and recalling all police and military personnel assigned as politicians' bodyguards.

The task force also ordered the grounding of all public vehicles used by provincial, congressional and municipal officials.

The poll body further ordered the Air Transportation Office and the Aviation Security Group in Virac, Catanduanes to put all private and chartered aircraft arriving and leaving its airport under close scrutiny.

Zacarias Zaragosa, Comelec Bicol regional director, told the INQUIRER that all chartered aircraft requesting clearance to land must identify the aircraft owner, the names of passengers on board and the purpose of their flights.

Zaragosa said the order also directs all aircraft to land for inspection at the Virac airport where both passengers and luggage would be subjected to thorough security check.

However, Asian Spirit flights regularly servicing the island province have been exempted from the order. *Juan Escandor Jr. and Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops probe fake money link to pols

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police on Friday strengthened their leads on the links of a syndicate producing counterfeit money believed intended for the vote-buying binges of politicians in today's elections.

This came after the principal suspect, arrested in a search and seizure operation last May 10, admitted to reporters that he ran for mayor of Candaba, Pampanga, in the 1988 elections.

Glicerio Catalig, replying to a reporter's inquiry, also confirmed that Euferia, his wife and co-suspect, is a municipal engineer of Masantol town, also in Pampanga.

The police did not present Catalig's wife in a press briefing held at the Pampanga police center here.

But Catalig, his hands tied to a metal cuff, denied that he and his wife were making and distributing fake bills.

He also declined to talk on the total amount of fake bills they had produced and who among politicians in Central Luzon received these for their election campaigns.

The city's detective and intelligence operatives arrested the couple in their house at the SMC Village in Barangay Quebiawan here.

Police seized three bogus P500 bills and seven fake P1,000 bills including 156 pieces of genuine P10 bills which were washed of prints through an unknown chemical.

Images of P500 and P1,000 bills were scanned and printed on the blank but genuine P10 bills through a printer which was also confiscated during the raid, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police chief, told reporters.

The computer, according to Catalig, was given by one Alfredo Concepcion, whom he described as his friend from Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

He declined to say what Concepcion's business was.

Galang, showing to reporters the fake bills, said these appear like the original ones. On close scrutiny, however, the marks of the printer betrayed the authenticity of the paper money.

Galang said police were investigating the possible link of Catalig's group to politicians and similar counterfeit money syndicates in Luzon and Mindanao.

He did not set a timetable for the completion and release of results of the investigations.

Fake money bills have been reported proliferating in Central Luzon in the run-up to the May 14 elections, Galang said.

The Cataligs, still detained Friday at the city jail here, have been charged with counterfeiting money and illegal possession of firearms. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bet backers meet mishap; 2 die, 9 hurt

BAGUIO CITY—Two persons were killed and nine others were injured Saturday when their jeep plunged into a ravine in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed the victims were on their way to a *miting de avance* of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in Bontoc, some 150 kilometers from here, when their jeep fell into a ravine in Sitio Gusod between the towns of Sadanga and Bontoc.

Police identified the fatalities as Ricardo Faginey and Wangwang Impos.

Injured were former Board Member Cornelio Lampesa, Johnny Akiate, Victor Taya-an, Cornelio Isigen, Alfredo Madco, Felix Ubpas, Padyakas Amtios, Garanto Parao-as and driver Lucio Parao-as. *Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PNP claims NPAs earned ₱3.3M from bets

CALAPAN CITY—The Philippine National Police claimed that New People's Army guerrillas here, composing one of the biggest rebel fronts in Southern Tagalog, had collected at least P3.3 million from its issuance of "permits-to-campaign (PTC)" to local candidates.

Aside from cash, the rebels, under the Lucio de Guzman Command, have also acquired an undetermined number of pistols and high-powered rifles, said Oriental Mindoro police chief Romeo Ricardo.

Ricardo said these pieces of information were culled from documents confiscated from a rebel safehouse in Barangay Masagana, Naujan town, which is only about 20 kilometers from this capital city.

"One congressional candidate gave P1.5 million for his ticket. Others gave P50,000, some gave P75,000. The figures vary for each candidate," Ricardo said.

Candidates who failed to get PTCs saw their vehicles and campaign materials confiscated by the rebels. Ricardo, however, revealed that no one among the candidates here ever admitted securing a PTC, much less giving firearms to the rebels.

"They are resorting to peaceful co-existence with the rebels so as not to disrupt their campaign activities," Ricardo said.

He added that the local rebels' take may reach P4 million once all the candidates have secured their PTCs. An INQUIRER source revealed that the vehicles of at least two mayoral candidates here were confiscated by the rebels when they failed to secure PTCs.

The vehicles were promptly returned after the two candidates paid P50,000 each.

One candidate also said the color of the PTC varies. It is red for congressional candidates, blue for provincial candidates and green for municipal candidates.

The PTC allows the candidates to campaign in areas which are controlled by the rebels.

Of 424 barangays in the province, the New People's Army here has reportedly 13 influenced and 54 infiltrated barangays across this island-province's 14 towns and one city. Ricardo said ratio of rebel to barangay in Mindoro province is higher than the ratio in Quezon province, home of the Melito Glor Command.

Last month, Melito Glor Command chief Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger, led other ranking rebel leaders in releasing here long-time NPA captive Army Maj. Noel Buan in Barangay Bait, one of the identified NPA-controlled barangays in Oriental Mindoro.

During the turnover ceremonies of Buan, Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the Melito Glor Command, acknowledged the people's cooperation in the few months that Buan was kept in the mountains of Mindoro.

Last week, the Southern Luzon Command led by Maj. General Narciso Abuya sent here a battalion of Philippine Army soldiers from the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion to check the growth of the NPA front here. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PPC says opposition hatching 'trending' plot

(From page A1)

candidates said they could already feel they would make it.

"We can feel it (victory) in our bones," Arroyo told reporters Saturday night at the PPC *miting de avance* at the University of Life in Pasig City.

Some 15,00 supporters, including President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, attended the *miting de avance*.

Arroyo and other PPC senatorial candidates expressed confidence that a 13-0 PPC victory in today's polls was still possible.

He said that despite the Iglesia ni Cristo's endorsement of support for only eight PPC senatorial candidates, he was optimistic that all of them can make it.

The PPC is also likely to benefit from the fact that the last four slots are being fought over by six PnM candidates.

"They will junk one another," he said.

PPC reelectionist Senators Franklin Drilon and Serge Osmeña, and PPC senatorial candidates Francisco Pangilinan and Manny Villar have varying opinions on the outcome of the polls.

Pangilinan said they expected an "overwhelming victory" because the 10 percent who are still undecided would go to their side.

He noted that surveys had shown that many Filipinos wanted change and good governance.

Villar dismissed Puno's claim of a 7-6 victory for the opposition. Villar said more PPC bets would make it.

Tañada in Magic 13

Osmeña said a 13-0 victory for the PPC could be achieved because the latest Pulse Asia survey showed a possible 9-4 victory for the PPC.

He disclosed that Tañada finally landed on the 13th spot.

"I'm confident I would make it and I'm looking forward to Election Day," Tañada told reporters.

For his part, Drilon said "we can make a clean sweep, but it will depend on the voters. So we ask that they vote straight."

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said in an interview aired over CNN yesterday afternoon that pro-administration candidates would dominate the senatorial race.

"According to surveys, across all income classes, my candidates still have the majority. So perhaps—not all of them—but I think a lot of them, understand," she said.

In another interview, this time with a government-owned radio station, Ms Macapagal urged Filipinos to reject "guns, goons and gold" when they go to the polls today.

"As the mother of the nation, I expect everyone to vote according to conscience. Do not be swayed by guns, goons and gold," the President said, speaking in Filipino over Radyo ng Bayan.

The PPC candidates are voting in the precincts where they are registered, some of them going to their home provinces. Ernesto Herrera will cast his ballot in Bohol and Tañada in Quezon. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

Opposition warns vs 'dirty tricks' experts of PPC

(From page A1)

brushed aside the allegation of PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco that he was the head of the PnM's own dirty tricks department tasked with reversing the 13-0 campaign of the administration. ***(See related story on Page A1.)***

"The opposition has neither the intention nor the resources and capability to mount such nefarious activities. Only losers engage in such pathetic pursuits," Puno said in a statement.

Soliman and Andanar

PnM-LDP campaign manager Sen. Vicente Sotto III identified Eduardo Soliman and Wencelito Andanar, undersecretaries of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, as the heads of "well-funded teams of political operatives" sent to several areas "where the PnM is expected to win big in the senatorial race."

In a press statement, Sotto said the teams were sent to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Eastern Visayas, the Cordillera Administrative Region and other areas over the weekend "to flesh out Malacañang's sinister plot to railroad the 13-0 victory of the PPC in (today's) national polls."

Sotto said PnM-LDP local leaders had alerted the opposition's Manila headquarters about the plan.

Sotto said the two undersecretaries "are known political operatives who are sought after by political parties especially come election time."

"Soliman was the administrator of Quezon City when Brigido Simon Jr. was the mayor . . . under the Aquino administration. Andanar, meanwhile, is a key political operator of former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr.," Sotto said.

Sotto was Simon's vice mayor when Soliman was Quezon City administrator. Andanar left his post as chair of the Philippine Coconut Authority in 1992 to run for senator under the LDP. He lost.

PnM spokesperson Crispin Remulla said he had received reports that Simon himself "is also deeply involved in the dirty tricks maneuvers of the PPC."

Remulla claimed that Simon "has been assigned to oversee the operations of Couples for Christ and other non-government and the so-called religious organizations identified with the Macapagal administration that are also pushing Malacañang's 13-0 campaign."

Remulla accused the Couples for Christ of being "the prime mover of the 13-0 Movement."

"It is obvious that the political strategists of Malacañang and the PPC are now in a state of panic. So they deployed these dirty tricksters to opposition strongholds in an 11th hour bid to reverse the landslide victory of the opposition in Monday's election," Sotto said.

Estrada's taped message

Former President Joseph Estrada also warned his supporters of massive cheating in today's polls, which, he said, was part of the "last chapter" of the Macapagal administration's campaign to weaken the opposition.

In a taped message aired during the *miting de avance* of the local PnM in San Juan, Metro Manila, on Saturday night, Estrada urged his followers to fight the "looming dictatorship" by ensuring the victory of the PnM.

He said the people should not allow the administration to thwart their forces again in the elections as it did during the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa and the assault on Malacañang.

"Through our votes, we will show our opposition to those who grabbed power from us, without the blessing of the Constitution or the people," said Estrada, who still addressed himself before the San Juan crowd as "*ang inyong pangulo* (your President)."

The ousted leader said his detractors were determined to completely grab power from him and his allies by cheating in the polls.

He cited the "persecution" of reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda as proof of the Macapagal administration's plan to "cripple and eventually eliminate the opposition."

He said even "legitimate businessmen" were being accused of financing the PnM coalition in the election campaign and the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa.

A police intelligence report said that at least 18 Chinese-Filipino businessmen and Mark Jimenez had contributed a total of P1 billion to finance the Edsa rallies of Estrada's supporters, the storming of Malacañang and a coup plot against the Macapagal administration.

Estrada's message was the highlight of the *miting de avance* for Estrada son JV Ejercito, who is running for mayor in San Juan to replace his half-brother Jinggoy.

Puno vs Limcaoco

Turning the tables on Limcaoco, Puno said the PPC media officer apparently wanted to use the opposition to bolster his professional status as a public relations man.

"The best judge of Dodi's (Limcaoco's nickname) political skills—or lack of it—is the PPC senatorial slate which fired him as the coalition's campaign manager for the booboos he had committed at the start of the campaign season," Puno said.

"Dodi is an amateur who is in possession of a mediocre political barometer," Puno said, whose brother Ricardo is running for senator under the PnM banner.

Puno said Limcaoco "is passing off black propaganda for truth because he seems to have forgotten that only those in power, such as the PPC, are capable of orchestrating wholesale poll-related fraud and violence."

PnM says it's 7-6

The PnM earlier released its survey findings indicating the party leads the administration, 7-6, in the senatorial race.

It based this claim on its own "census," which it claims is "the most comprehensive in the country today."

At least eight of its candidates "will win in 34 provinces—or nearly half the country's total of 78 provinces—while eight PPC bets are expected to lead in 26 provinces," it said.

"It is a toss-up for the remaining provinces, with either of the two parties winning 7-6 in the final count, thus prompting (our) camp to predict that the PnM-LDP senatorial bets will win by 7-6, or even as high as 9-4 in (today's) election," the opposition said.

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Sin: Ballot, not bullet; pen, not 'balisong'

(From page A1)

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

The outspoken cleric urged voters to make use of the elections to express their "desire for a new kind of governance"—an obvious endorsement of administration candidates who have been campaigning on the platform of "new politics."

At the same time, Sin, a longtime critic of ousted President Estrada, told the congregation that "the Church is not anti-Erap. The Church is pro-morality . . . pro-God."

He added: "I pray our poor brothers and sisters will understand that the Church has a responsibility to teach what is right and moral."

"Let all who can vote cast their vote," the cardinal said.

Sin celebrated the Mass in thanksgiving for the reparation of the shrine, following what Church officials called its "profanation" by the rowdy "Edsa III" crowd during six days of rallies at the end of April.

The cardinal expressed relief that the shrine, which served as the backdrop of the downfall of two leaders, had been repaired and cleaned.

Not enough

But he said that this was not enough, citing the poor who have been "victimized right on this same holy ground."

"What the poor need is our presence, our friendship, a listening heart, a caring hand," Sin told what seemed to be a predominantly middle-class crowd.

His audience listened solemnly, huddling under umbrellas as a light shower fell outside the historic shrine.

Sin also asked for forgiveness from the poor who, he said, had long been neglected by the Church and exploited by a powerful few.

"Our poor brothers and sisters, please forgive the Church for its shortcomings. I will try to empower you so you will have a voice and will try to live like you," he said in Filipino.

"It is not enough that we give them help. We have to live simply. We have to listen to their demands. Let us not wait for another crisis before we open our eyes." *With a report from Nickson Ryan Matias*

AS CONFETTI rains, President Macapagal-Arroyo embraces supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada in a gesture of reconciliation during the Edsa Shrine Mass.

THIS time, the umbrellas are out among the nuns in the crowd amid real rain.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Bomb . . .

(From page A1)

bomb went off under a parked hauling truck while reelectionist Gov. Emmanuel Piñol was holding a *miting de avance* in a nearby town plaza on Saturday afternoon.

No one was reported hurt.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Cotabato City, said the explosive, made out of a mortar bomb and attached with a timing device, was planted under the truck which was used to ferry Piñol's supporters.

The truck's driver had just left the vehicle after an afternoon nap when the bomb exploded.

In Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur, four persons were wounded when an unidentified man lobbed a grenade inside the house of a village leader at 8:30 p.m., police said.

The victims were not immediately identified.

The grenade exploded in the house of Candido Oniot, barangay chair of Bobongan and known supporter of local Lakas-NUCD candidates.

Cagayan

Armed men gunned down a village chief in his house in Barangay Binubugan in Allacapan, Cagayan, on Saturday night, police reports said.

Police provincial officials in Tuguegarao City said the victim, Aurelio Agbisit, died from multiple bullet wounds. Investigators were looking at political rivalry as a motive in the attack.

Reports said Agbisit and his family were in their house when the armed men attacked.

In Solana town, also in Cagayan, four armed men shot and wounded a supporter of Mayor Rodrigo de Asis on Saturday. Marcelino Enriquez was aboard his motorcycle when he was shot in the leg. *Reports from Nash B. Maulana, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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100-day notion irrelevant to GMA presidency

(From page A1)

Former President Corazon Aquino diverted much of her time, energy and political resources from rebuilding the shattered economy and democratic institutions to quelling seven coup attempts.

President Macapagal not only faces potential threats of new coups, this time feeding on grievances of the poor, but also sits on the edge of a cauldron seething with challenges, both legal and political, to the legitimacy of her government.

In view of these prospects for discord, inside Congress as well as between the presidency and the legislative factions, the 100-day benchmark as a measure of presidential potential for success is irrelevant.

Indeed, today in the United States, from which we copied blindly our presidential system and the 100-days tradition with all their faults, the relevance of this notion is being questioned.

Origin

The 100 days phenomenon originated from US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who entered the presidency with the United States plunged in the Great Depression, a 25-percent unemployment rate and a financial crash.

Roosevelt launched a crash economic recovery program, the New Deal, driven by vision and helped by the fact that the Democratic Party had a thumping majority in Congress.

However, a National Journal article titled "Why 100 Days?" says "the actual origin of the 100 days predates Roosevelt by more than a century."

Its authors, John Maggs and James Barnes, trace the phenomenon back to 1815 in the France of Louie XVIII, when "Napoleon rallied the army, recaptured Paris, got thrashed at Waterloo, and was exiled to live out his days on a rock in the South Atlantic, all within 100 days. Dramatic, but not an experience to be imitated."

The article goes on and quotes Paul Light, a scholar at the Brookings Institution, as saying: "The 100-day window 'is an overrated, artificial concept. Brookings just completed a list of the greatest 50 achievements of (the US) government of the last 50 years, and virtually none of them were achieved in the first 100 days."

Not a norm

Another article in the May 3 issue of the Financial Times, by Gerard Baker, reflects the revisionist view that the 100 days concept may have been relevant only to FDR and is not a norm for measuring the success or failure of the presidency.

Posing the question "how important is the first 100 days?," the article says that "most historians dismiss it."

The article points out that the "combination of a desperate need (the Depression) and the wherewithal (a thumbing Democratic majority in Congress) has been unmatched in modern history, and made the remarkable legislative monument of the New Deal possible."

Roosevelt "managed to get 15 major pieces of legislation through Congress in his first three months," the historian Robert Dallek said. "No one can hope to live up to that record."

Other American presidents have imitated and have tried to match the mobilization capacity of Roosevelt, but no one—not even Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Lyndon Johnson and John F. Kennedy—has come quite close to it.

The article points out that Kennedy's first 100 days were a disaster. It was plagued by the Bay of Pigs disaster, from which he recovered only to end up being assassinated, leaving a euphoria over "Camelot," and a record of sweeping tax reforms and the civil rights revolution. His tough confrontation with Nikita Khruschev over the missile crisis captured the Free World's imagination in the Cold War.

Abraham Lincoln's first 100 days echoed to the sound of gunfire at Fort Sumter, sparking the Civil War, it is pointed out, and yet he has emerged as one of America's greatest presidents.

Auspicious starts

There were US presidents who started auspiciously their first 100 days, according to the Financial Times article.

Among them was Roosevelt's predecessor, Herbert Hoover, who amassed a solid legislative record of achievements in his first three months, only to encounter the stock market crash of 1929.

Jimmy Carter imitated Roosevelt's fireside chats to communicate to the nation but was overwhelmed by the oil and hostage crises, dooming his bid for reelection.

Some presidential spokespersons have argued that "first impressions are critical in giving the public a sense of the basic values of the incoming president."

But the Times article points out that "the broader sweep of historical perspective merely serves to remind that the first 100 days have been largely irrelevant in determining the success or failure of a presidency."

Macapagal's case

When President Macapagal took office, she did not have a direct electoral mandate. She succeeded President Joseph Estrada after he was deposed. Although her accession has received legitimacy from the Supreme Court, the matter of her succeeding Estrada remains disputed and fuels the resentment of the poor, Estrada's constituency.

Ms Macapagal didn't have a new Congress. The legislature was winding down for the next election, so she could not introduce sweeping reform or social legislation to address the alleviation of poverty.

She inherited Estrada's budget, which ends on June 30, and any program that would reallocate resources to social programs though the budget would have to wait until the second half of the year.

In the face of these circumstances, she could not provide substance to her initiatives. However, in terms of giving "a sense of basic values," she has succeeded in tamping her priorities and even her style.

Her presidency is more methodical, focused and has well-ordered priorities. Her government is hardworking. In responding to crises or armed challenges, she has shown herself to be tough.

Her government has bitten the bullet of implementing equal justice by filing plunder charges against Estrada, and for this, she invited the revolt of the masses. She has drawn the profile of her government, but in the contest for the allegiance of the poor, she needs more than a profile.

Loss of a surrogate

With the removal of Estrada from the presidency, the masses lost a surrogate with whom they could identify their grievances. Estrada's ouster has created a vacuum which Ms Macapagal is trying to fill, but she does not have Estrada's charisma.

She is an issue-oriented leader who emphasizes programs rather than developing a personality cult. Winning the poor with programs takes time. Her anti-poverty programs are not backed by enormous resources.

She has to deliver some results within the next two years to make the poor abandon their fallen idol and switch their loyalty to her through benefits delivered by programs—not by promises.

The next struggle in the post-May election is defined by whether she can win the affection of the poor. The 100-day notion will not be of much help. It is not very original and like American-style democracy, we have a hard time fitting into that model.

Alleviation of the poor will be the main agenda of the post-May politics. It has acquired the status of a motherhood statement, which no politician from whatever side can oppose.

It will be the defining theme of the political agenda, which also offers vast opportunities for lip service. Whatever is the outcome of the senatorial elections, Ms Macapagal can organize a national agenda around this theme, and it will cut across factional lines.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo visits the urban poor in Tondo, Manila, on Sunday.

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CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0150	0300	P2,608	P2,049
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810		
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810		
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 963	Daily	0700	0840		
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540		
	5J - 967	Daily	1510	1650		
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055		
	5J - 385	Daily	1100	1225		
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320		
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510		
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055		
	5J - 457	Daily	1520	1620		
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720		
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100		
	5J - 477	Daily	1330	1430		
	5J - 479	Daily	1630	1730		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0600	0730	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 563/431*	M/W/Th/Sat	0900	1215		
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 353	Daily	1030	1120		
	5J - 341	Daily	1340	1430		

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0350	0500	P2,608	P2,049
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810		
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010		
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	1120	1215	P2,388	P2,089
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1750	1825	P1,799	P1,599
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399
KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200	P2,339	P2,039

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210		
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 966	Daily	1500	1640		
	5J - 968	Daily	1730	1910		
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 598	Daily	1620	1710		
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1620	1825	P3,295	P2,839
KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200	P3,588	P2,859
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	0920	1020	P2,388	P2,089
CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J - 182	T/Th/Sat	0920	0955	P2,298	P1,929

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	1305	1430		
DAVAO	5J - 181	T/Th/Sat	1035	1110	P2,298	P1,929

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700		

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 458	Daily	1700	1800		
	5J - 462	Daily	1905	2005		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910		
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250		
	5J - 478	Daily	1520	1620		
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920		
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	0810	0940	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 432/568*	M/W/Th/Sat	1255	1610		
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	1255	1350	P2,388	P2,089
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	1100	1200	P2,388	P2,089

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 354	Daily	1200	1250		
	5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600		
CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330	P2,339	P2,039
DAVAO	5J - 231/597*	T/F/Sun	1250	1540	P3,588	P2,859

*via Cebu

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Tan Ho clinches age group crown

ALBERT Anasta and Joshua Tan Ho ruled their respective divisions yesterday in the Enervon Cup Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Anasta bagged the boys' 21-under title over Emerson Ocampo, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-4, while Tan Ho of Xavier School pocketed the unisex 10-under crown over No. 2 Tomas Apacible, 7-5, 6-2.

In other finals matches, second seed Joseph Arcilla stunned top pick Carlo Manalastas, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4, for the 18-under title and No. 5 Nico Riego de Dios outplayed No. 7 Michael Basco, 6-2, 6-2, for the 16-under title.

Second pick Miguel Narvaez took the boys' 14-under title over No. 1 Maruic Lao, 6-4, 6-2, while No. 1 Russell Arcilla R. defeated Markanthon Reyes, 6-3, 6-4 for the boys' 12-under title.

In the girls division, top seed Vida Alpuerto clobbered third seed Ziarla Battad, 6-2, 6-0 to clinch the 18-under title in the Philta-sanctioned tournament organized by the Junior Tennis Association of the Philippines (Juntaphil).

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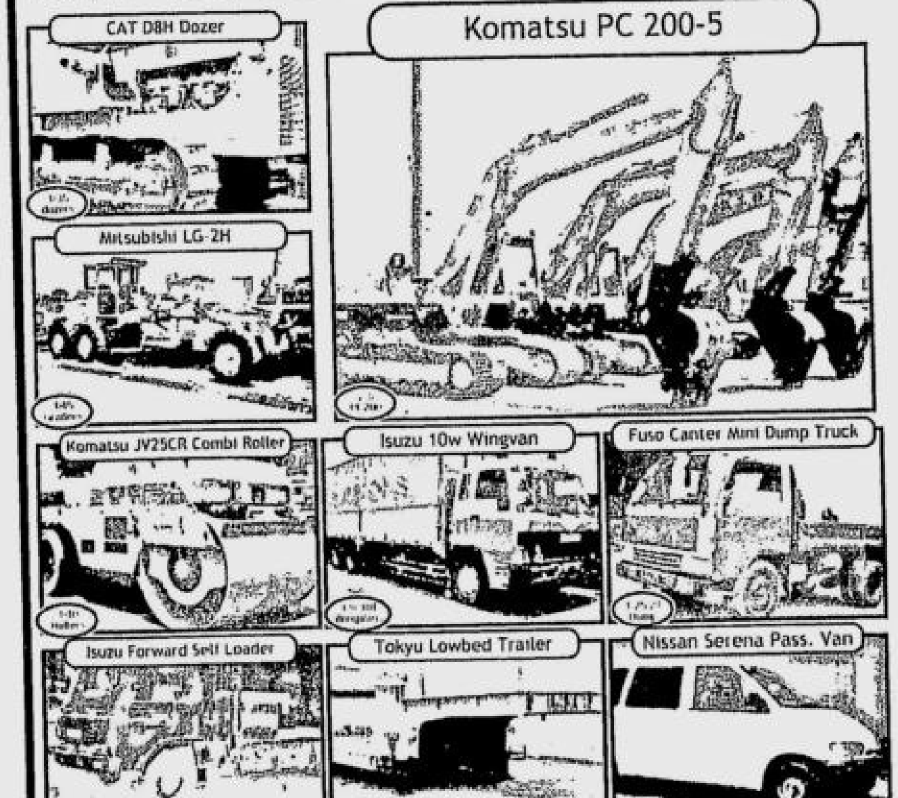
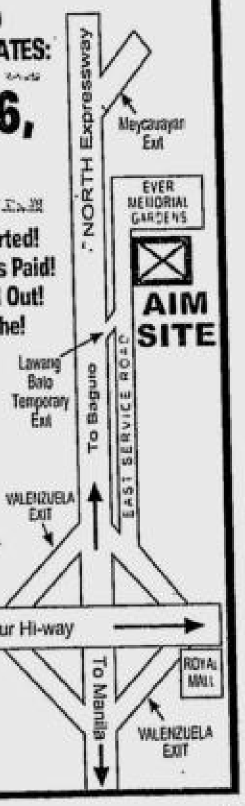
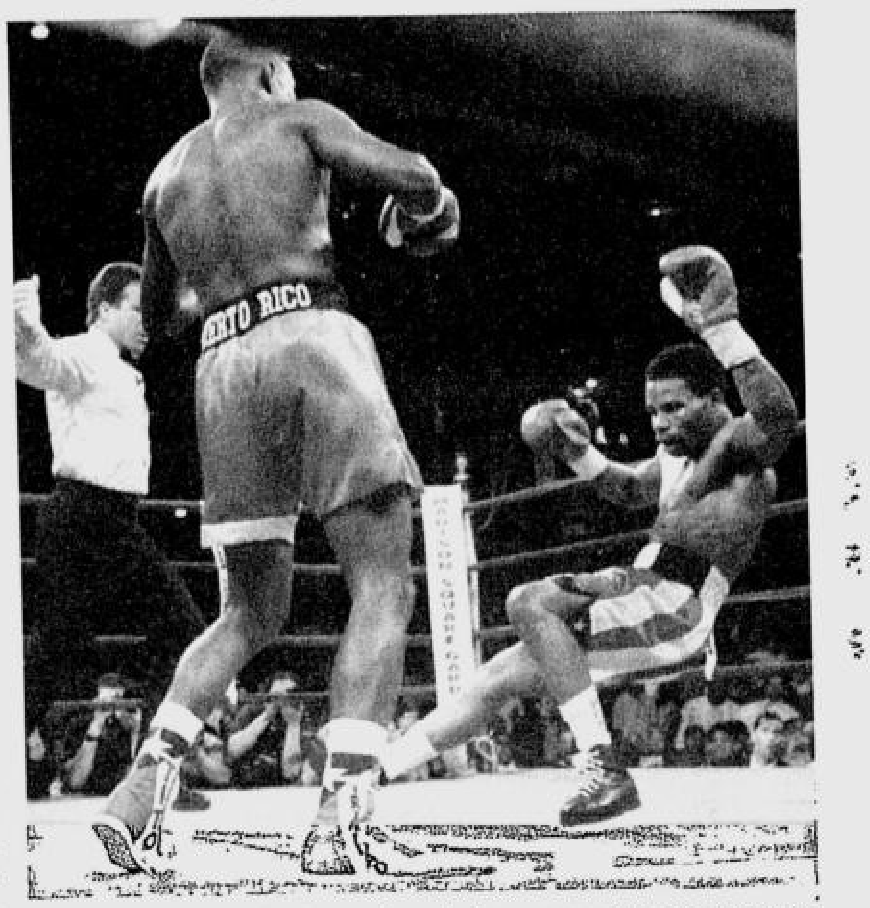




5TH ROUND KO

Trinidad grabs 3rd weight title



TRINIDAD (left) sends Joppy down to the canvas during fourth round action in their WBA middleweight title fight. Trinidad stopped Joppy in the fifth round. REUTERS

NEW YORK—Felix Trinidad Jr. put on a sensational show before a roaring Madison Square Garden crowd, stopping William Joppy in the fifth round early Sunday to take the WBA middleweight title.

Trinidad, becoming a champion in a third weight division, just had too much power for Joppy, knocking him down in the first, fourth and fifth rounds as the pro-Trinidad crowd cheered itself hoarse.

The third knockdown came in the final minute of the fifth round when Trinidad landed a right. Joppy went down, came up almost immediately, and stumbled into the ring post. As he went along the ropes, referee Arthur Mercante Jr. stopped the fight at 2:25.

It was truly a stunning performance by the 28-year-old Puerto Rican, unbeaten in 40 fights with 33 knockouts.

The victory will put Trinidad into a fight for the undisputed middleweight title in the Garden on Sept. 15 against Bernard Hopkins, who retained the IBF title and won the WBC championship by outpointing Keith Holmes on April 14.

"I beat the best middleweight tonight. Now, I am the best," Trinidad said. "I know Hopkins is going to come well prepared, but once I hit him, the fight's going to be over.

Trinidad became the first former welterweight to win a middleweight title since Roberto Duran in 1989. Trinidad also won the IBF and WBA 154-pound (69-kilo) titles, which he now will relinquish.

The 30-year-old Joppy, a 3-1 underdog, opened the fight by jolting Trinidad with a right hand with just 15 seconds gone. But with 12 seconds left, Trinidad knocked Joppy down for a four count with a right-left-right to the head.

The right hand was Trinidad's big weapon throughout. Joppy simply could not get out of the way of it.

Ateneo Tackles La Salle

ATENEO will try to move closer to winning the elusive Ambassador Carlos Valdes permanent trophy when it squares off with La Salle anew in the 14th edition of their golf dual meet on May 30-31 at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

Any school that wins three years in a row will keep the Ambassador Valdes trophy. That feat remains to be achieved as either team only went as far as repeating in the last 13 years.

Ateneo will go into the match as the defending champion after edging La Salle by a mere point in one of the closest finishes in the history of the meet last year.

On May 30, the newly introduced 19 years and below bracket as well as the 30-39 age-group will play at the north while south will be used by those in the 20-29 class and lady participants.

On May 31, the north will host the 50-59 and 60-65 divisions with those in the 40-49 and 66 years and above tackling the south.

Scoring format to be used is Blind Callaway.

In recent years, the provincial delegations have contributed significantly to their Alma Mater's winning efforts. For this reason, organizers from both schools have been attracting alumni from their provincial affiliates such as La Salle Bacolod, La Salle Lipa, Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Zamboanga and Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro to participate.

Interested participants may register at their school's alumni office or proceed to Canlubang Golf and Country Club on their assigned dav

Jungolf resumes at WW

THE COUNTRY'S top jungolfers tackle the final stretch of their summer campaign as the eighth leg of the annual Jungolf Circuit tees off today at the Wack Wack west course in Mandaluyong City.

Despite the early rains in May, the regular campaigners of the Northwest Airlines-sponsored circuit—totaling no less than 120—will dispute the titles in four age-group divisions for both sexes.

Tight finishes especially in Class A (15-17 years), Class B (13-14) and Class C (11-12) loom especially after a series of sudden-death playoffs marked the competitions in the past four legs.

"For us to have produced an Asian champion in Judson Eustaquio is one big proof that the hard work of the kids are paying off. We hope to contend in the two major international meets we're preparing for," said Jungolf president Merwin Mediana.

Class A players like Artemio Murakami, Gene Bondoc and GT Laguatan have been given a tough fight by Korean youngsters.

Ex-swim queen hits RA 9064

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

STATUESQUE Haydee Coloso Espino, once dubbed as "Asian Swim Queen" for being the most dominant female swimmer in the mid-1950s until the early 1960s, has taken umbrage at the provision of Section 9 of RA 9064, also called the "Sports Benefits and Incentives act of 2001."

Writing from Mandurriao, Iloilo City, Espino said the bill is discriminatory because under the provision of Section 9, past achievers in international meets like her are only entitled to 50 percent of the cash incentives allotted to medal winners of sporting contests such as the Olympics and Asian Games.

"Isn't it ironic," she asked, "that after spending time, effort and sacrificing a lot, we will only be rewarded with 50 percent of what is justly due us?"

The bottom line, she added, is that we also proudly carried the Philippine flag and sang with fervor the national anthem during the gold medal ceremonies. "And as veteran athletes, we certainly deserve a far better treatment."

During her time, she explained, they were not pampered compared to the present crop of national athletes who regularly receive allowances, food and vitamins and other amenities such as living quarters in their training.

"Our only fault," Espino lamented, "was that we accomplished our medal-winning feats before the enactment of RA 9064. Are we now going to be punished for that?"

She added that probably some of the bright boys in Congress must have said, "*Mabuti nga at naalaala pa sila at bibigyan pa natin.*"

Methinks the law should be amended to give justice to Espino and the other great athletes like her for reaping honors in the past. The law should emulate and treat them fairly and not punish them because they have left large footprints on the world sporting scene with their extraordinary achievements. And I am not buying the pitch that the intent of the law is to motivate and encourage present and future athletes to excel; that giving incentives to past performance is only secondary. This is most unfair to these past achievers.

Now retired and receiving pension from the Philippine Sports Commission, Espino is the most bemedalled Filipina swimmer in memory. During her prime, she won a total of 10 medals in the Asian Games—three golds, five silvers and two bronzes in the Asiad of 1954 in Manila, 1958 in Tokyo and 1962 in Jakarta.

"While in Jakarta," she reminisced, "one of my most memorable moments was when I danced with then Indonesian President Sukarno in the presence of his bodyguards and members of the Philippine delegation at the plush Merdeka Palace. All my mementos, by the way, are in Iloilo City where I am now based as my house in Manila was burned two years ago."

Eric, Monsour sports gab guests

MAKATI Amateur Sports Association president Mark Joseph has tapped multi-titled swimmer Eric Buhain and taekwondo jin-actor Monsour del Rosario to head sport personalities who will give insights on the role of sports in community development in Makati City.

Joseph said the talk would focus on the importance of sports and the ill-effects of drug addiction in maintaining a healthy environment in the city.

Besides Buhain and Del Rosario, a former member of the taekwondo national team, Joseph has also asked former Asian sprint queen Lydia De Vega-Mercado, weightlifting's Jaime Sebastian, Chris Monfort (football), Akiko Thompson (swimming) and four-time bowling World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno to attend.

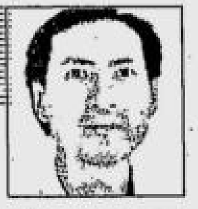
Joseph said Masa would invite public school teachers as chief participants in the seminar. Volunteers are also welcome to participate and may register in their respective barangays within the city.

Joseph said the move is in keeping with Masa's dream of nurturing at least one athlete for every family within the city.

For starters, Joseph is religiously batting for the free use of sports complexes in the city, citing a provision in the local government code that sports facilities should be controlled by the barangays and thus be made open to the public.

Spurs-Lakers battle looms

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

INEVITABLY, and deservedly so, the San Antonio Spurs and the reigning NBA champion LA Lakers—the top two teams during the regulars with records of 58-24 and 56-26, respectively—are headed for a Western Conference finals clash.

Moreover, the winner almost likely will take home the coveted Larry O'Brien championship hardware this year.

The Lakers, the only unblemished club in the playoffs with a 6-0 mark (including 2-0 on the road), seek to finish off the Shaq-shackled Sacramento Kings in Game 4 of their best-of-seven West semifinal series at the Arco Arena today (Manila time) via a four-game sweep.

The Spurs, the winningest regular outfit with the homecourt advantage throughout the postseason, go for the series clincher tomorrow (Manila time) in Game 5 of their own conference semifinal duel against the upstart Dallas Mavericks at the Alamodome. San Antonio took a commanding 3-0 lead but Texas rival Dallas prevented a sweep with a 112-108 victory at the Reunion Arena in Game Four.

History is against Dallas and Sacramento making a grand comeback. No team has ever climbed out of an 0-3 hole to capture a bet-of-seven playoff series.

From where we sit, the upcoming San Antonio-LA showdown will be the true battle for the NBA championship. Regardless of which team emerges on top, the West representative will be able to easily dispose of the East winner in the NBA Finals, which starts on June 3 at the earliest or June 6 at the latest.

The Spurs currently are 6-2 in the playoffs (including a 3-1 win over Minnesota in the first round) and unbeaten in four game sat home.

Expectedly, the Twin Towers of Tim Duncan and David Robinson have the way with Duncan averaging 24.1 points and 14.9 rebounds per game, including 25.8 ppg and 16.8 rpg against Dallas, and "The Admiral" ably supporting him with 17.1 ppg and 12.4 rpg.

Scott stays ahead

IRVING, Texas—Scott Verplank plodded along with pars and David Duval fared even worse on a day of low scoring in the Byron Nelson Classic, setting up a classic Texas shootout for the final round.

With overnight rain making the TPC at Las Colinas play as easy as it has all week, Verplank managed only two birdies Saturday in his round of 2-under 68 and was tied with Robert Damron, who birdied four of his last five holes for a 67.

Still, the course allowed for better play under only slightly breezy conditions. Proof of that came from Justin Leonard, who grew up in Dallas and finally gave the hometown crowd something to cheer by tying the tournament record with a 61.

Verplank and Damron were at 13-under 197, but hardly in control.

While Verplank had only two birdies, Duval also wasted a chance to pull away by missing greens on the short side of the flag. One of those came on No. 6, when a chip from a swale scooted some 15 meters (50 feet) past the hole.

Duval made five bogeys, but sank a 3.6-meter (12-foot) birdie putt on the final hole to finish the round where he started—at 11 under after an even-par 70, just two strokes back.

Duval was tied with Brian Watts (63), Nick Price (65) and Mike Weir of Canada, who also had a 65 and was shocked to see his name so close to the leaders. At one point, Weir was walking down the fairway when he looked at a scoreboard and saw the lead at 12 under.

"I thought I had missed a page," he said. "I thought shooting 65, I might be within four or five of the lead."

David Toms, who last week had a 127 on the weekend in New Orleans to win, got started in the similar direction with a 62. *AP*

Miñoza No. 18

FRANKIE Miñoza remained in second place in the Japanese Tour Order of Merit despite a struggling 18th place finish yesterday in the Japan PGA Championship at the Queen's Hills Country Club course in Fukuoka.

The 41-year-old Miñoza, winner of the Fujisankei Classic two weeks ago, needed a last-hole birdie for a three-over-par 74 and wound up tied with OOM leader Shingo Katayama and three others at 293, 12 off the winning total of American Dean Wilson.

He pocketed $11,300 (about P550,000) and pushed his earnings this season to $313,718.

Miñoza will try to overtake Katayama in this week's Munsingwear KSB Cup before he flies back home. It was just the third time in seven tournaments that Miñoza had finished outside the Top 15.

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NBA SEMIS

Mavs avert Spurs sweep

DALLAS—Once Dirk Nowitzki found his jumper, he wasn't going to let a lost tooth or the San Antonio Spurs end the Dallas Mavericks' season.

Nowitzki led a team-wide break from a series-long shooting slump, scoring 30 points as the Mavericks beat the Spurs, 112-108, Saturday to avoid elimination, forcing the series back to San Antonio.

Dallas improved to 4-0 this postseason in games that could end its season. Nowitzki has been the leading scorer in three of them.

Nowitzki had three of his nine rebounds and four points, two on free throws with 6.1 seconds left, after losing his front right tooth with 4:52 to play. He also made a smart defensive play with 5.1 left that helped seal the victory.

When the buzzer sounded, Nowitzki walked off the court blank-faced, gently touching his sore mouth. He'll have two days to heal as Game 5 is Monday night.

Michael Finley came up big for Dallas, too, with 25 points and 10 assists. His two free throws with 1.7 seconds guaranteed the victory, after his missed free throw with 15.7 seconds left kept San Antonio's hopes alive.

The Spurs, who led by three early in the fourth quarter, could've tied it with a 3-pointer but instead closed to 108-107 on a dunk by Antonio Daniels. Nowitzki's two free throws still left San Antonio within a 3-pointer of tying it.

But Nowitzki never let the Spurs get it off. He fouled Tim Duncan with 5.1 seconds left and the poor foul shooter made only the first one.

Teammate Malik Rose nearly tipped in the miss, then Sean Elliott got the rebound. But Dallas' defensive specialist Greg Buckner popped the ball away and got it to Finley, leading to the game-securing shots.

The Mavericks hit 18 of 19 free throws. The Spurs were 29 of 41, with five misses coming in the final quarter.

Nowitzki, who played through the effects of food poisoning in Game 3, had 16 points at the half. He scored eight in the third quarter despite picking up his fourth foul early in the period. *AP*

Berry enters 9-cock derby

VETERAN US cocker Chuck Berry of Oklahoma arrived last week in preparation for the "Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby" slated on May 29, 31 and June 2 at Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super feeds and Red Bull Energy Drink in cooperation with Lakpue Drug Inc.

In partnership with Ucap stalwart Ram Lopez, Berry's bet (Ariba Albay) ruled last January's Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby after posting 7.5 points.

Other foreigners expected to arrive sometime next week are Americans Bobby Jones, Paul Sparks, Travis Clark, Gerry Douglas and George Torres and Puerto Rican Ruben Rodriguez.

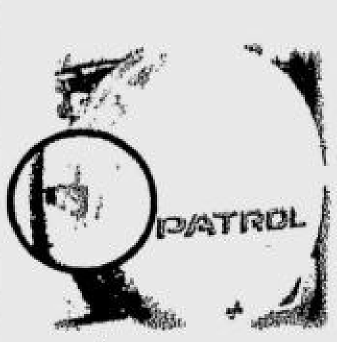
For reservation of fully air-conditioned cockhouses, interested parties may contact Goody, Ariel or Maricar at Mandaluyong Coliseum (534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.)

Kobe misses practice

SACRAMENTO, California—Kobe Bryant missed the Los Angeles Lakers' practice at Arco Arena on Saturday. The Lakers said Bryant returned to Los Angeles to attend to an undisclosed personal matter. He will be back in Sacramento on Sunday morning in time for Game 4 of the Lakers' Western Conference semifinal playoff series against the Kings.

Bryant scored 36 points in the Lakers' 103-81 victory over Sacramento on Friday night, giving Los Angeles a 3-0 lead in the series.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said he spoke with Bryant about the problem before the game, and that Bryant left late that night. *AP*



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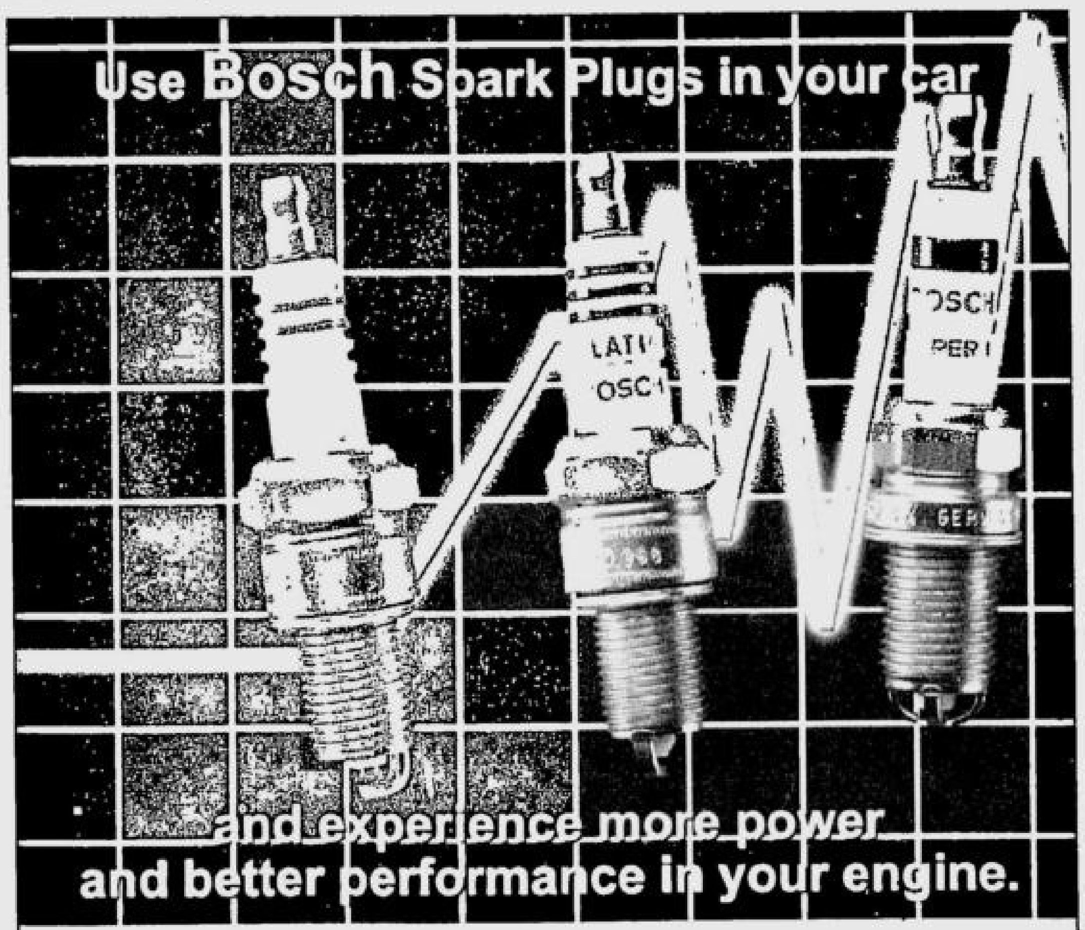
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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

San Beda extends streak

SAN Beda College downed Angelicum College, 76-66, yesterday to remain unbeaten in three games in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament at the UE Gym. University of the Philippines' Lady Maroons shared the limelight by beating defending champion Adamson, 61-49. Other senior games saw Letran beat UP, 65-59, and St. Jude edge PCU-Dasmariñas, 58-53.

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BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals, Milwaukee vs Charlotte, Game 4 at 8 p.m. (r)

GOLF: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBA FINALS

Ginebra humbles SMB, ties series

GAME WEDNESDAY (Araneta)
7:15 p.m. Ginebra vs SMB

By MARC ANTHONY REYES

BARANGAY Ginebra pounded San Miguel Beer without letup, 80-64, to level their PBA All-Filipino Cup Finals series at 2-2 last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings used their free-flowing transition offense while taking advantage of the Beermen's unusual poor shooting to take a second straight win in their best-of-seven duel.

The win not only changed the complexion of the series many thought would be lopsided in favor of powerhouse San Miguel, it also pushed the Gins two wins closer to their first title in four years.

"Everybody's counting us out," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic. "We just responded to the challenge."

With the momentum it got, Ginebra will now have a chance to take a 3-2 lead in Game 5 also at the Big Dome.

From a close third quarter, Ginebra suddenly erupted with fastbreak plays and long-range baskets that fatefully coincided with San Miguel's miserable shooting.

"If we just have to give up anything, we have to give their (Beermen's) jump shots," said Caidic.

Fortunately for him, most of SMB's jumpers didn't fall into place.

Danny Seigle was the biggest letdown in the game shooting 2-of-24 from the floor, something that proved infectious for the Beermen, who made just 15 points in the fourth quarter.

It was Seigle's worst performance in the conference (0-of-17 from the outside) and the Beermen's worst loss and lowest scoring in a year.

Danny Ildefonso, the conference best player awardee, wasn't of any help, too, as he struggled through the defense of Wilmer Ong.

But even when leading, 72-58, with four minutes left, Caidic kept pushing the Gins to finish off the Beermen, who by that time was about to give up by pulling out Seigle.

Jayjay Helterbrand made 12 of his 14 points, while Jun Limpot hit seven of his 12 in the fourth quarter .

Scores:

GINEBRA 80—Meneses 20, Helterbrand 14, Limpot 12, Crisano 10, Magtulis 9, Caguioa 9, David 4, Lago 2, Calpito 0, Ong 0.

SMB 64—Belasco 16, Racela 12, Victoria 9, Ildefonso 8, Abuda 6, Seigle 6, Lago 5, Pena 2, Mente 0, Gamboa 0, Dual 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 33-36, 52-49, 80-64.

MBA opener in San Juan and Bacolod

TWO games, one in Luzon and one in the Visayas, will open the Metropolitan Basketball Association's fourth season on June 3.

The 3 p.m. opener pitting reigning national champion San Juan against Batangas will be at the San Juan Coliseum, while the 5:30 p.m. game will be at the University of St. La Salle Gym.

An hour-long ceremony, adopting the fiesta theme, will precede the games to be telecast live over PTV 4.

Other teams entered—Cebu, Laguna, Nueva Ecija and Davao—see action on Wednesday.

Under the arrangement forged between the Multi-Regional Board Inc. composed of the team owners and league-backer ABS-CBN, the teams will hold a fiesta-like celebration on their respective areas.

The players and officials will spearhead the activities aimed at promoting goodwill and camaraderie between the teams and local residents. These celebrations would then be incorporated into the opening ceremony.

This year's teams are perceived to be stronger than last year because of the mergers and the abundance of free agents.

Batangas, of course, is the biggest gainer since the LBC-backed franchise acquired the rights to marquee players Romel Adducul, Alex Compton and Peter Martin.

Based on Batangas' performance in the recent Cebuana Lhuillier Friendship Games, however, it was evident that they have yet to jell with original Blades Eddie Laure, Ralph Rivera and Stephen Antonio. *Roy Luarca*

HK bets arriving for meet

By JUNE NAVARRO

FOREIGN participants from 10 Asian nations are set to arrive in the country starting today in time for the Milo 2001 Invitational Track and Field Championship set on May 17-20 at the Rizal Memorial Track and Football Stadium.

Out to steal the limelight from the hosts, the invaders will have Hong Kong as their advance party, which is set to enplane late in the afternoon via a Cathay Pacific flight.

Delegations from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Chinese-Taipei and Sabah will move in on Thursday.

Bets from Indonesia and Vietnam, probably in the mood for pulling off surprises, had confirmed but refused to divulge the date of their arrival and the total number of athletes.

Close to 1,000 athletes, both foreign and local, are expected to compete where majority of the competitors are using the event as a springboard to the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

A total of 806 athletes will don the national colors, mainly from local athletics clubs, private schools, local government units and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Malaysian territory of Sabah decided to send 40 athletes while Brunei will bank on 10 athletes on the track.

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3. Those who will avail of the promo must continue their subscription on the fourth, fifth and sixth full months with the same package or any package higher than the existing package. The subscription shall be billed to the customer at prevailing rates. The customer has the option to end his/her subscription after 6 months. Any termination within the 6-month period will be charged a handling fee of P1,100.00.
4. Purchase should be made between March 1, 2001 to May 31, 2001.
5. Promo will be applied on the 1st full month if activated after the first day of the month, or pro-rata calculation will be used for accounts activated after the first month.
6. An Activation Form is enclosed with the APC Back-UPS package. The customer should fill out the form completely and must activate the account anytime upon purchase until July 31, 2001 only. No activation forms shall be honored beyond this date.
7. To activate the Free account, the customer should do the following:
   a. Fax the activation form to any Pacific Internet branch in the area (see list below) or submit to any Pacific Internet outlets (see list below), together with the following requirements: 1. Proof of Purchase (Official Receipt); 2. A photocopy of valid ID (student or employment ID, Driver's License, passport, etc.); and 3. Any recent proof of billing (utility, cable, credit card, cellular phone, pager, telephone, etc.).
   b. A Pacific Internet Tele-sales representative shall process the account and call the customer to give his/her user name and password after faxing or submitting the complete requirements.
8. Internet access excess usage will be charged P66.00 per hour or P16.50 per 15-minute block.
9. Non-payment of monthly dues, if any, shall result to suspension. Suspension within the promo period forfeits free months from this promo.
10. No downgrades during the promo period will be allowed.
11. No carryovers of unused hours will be allowed.
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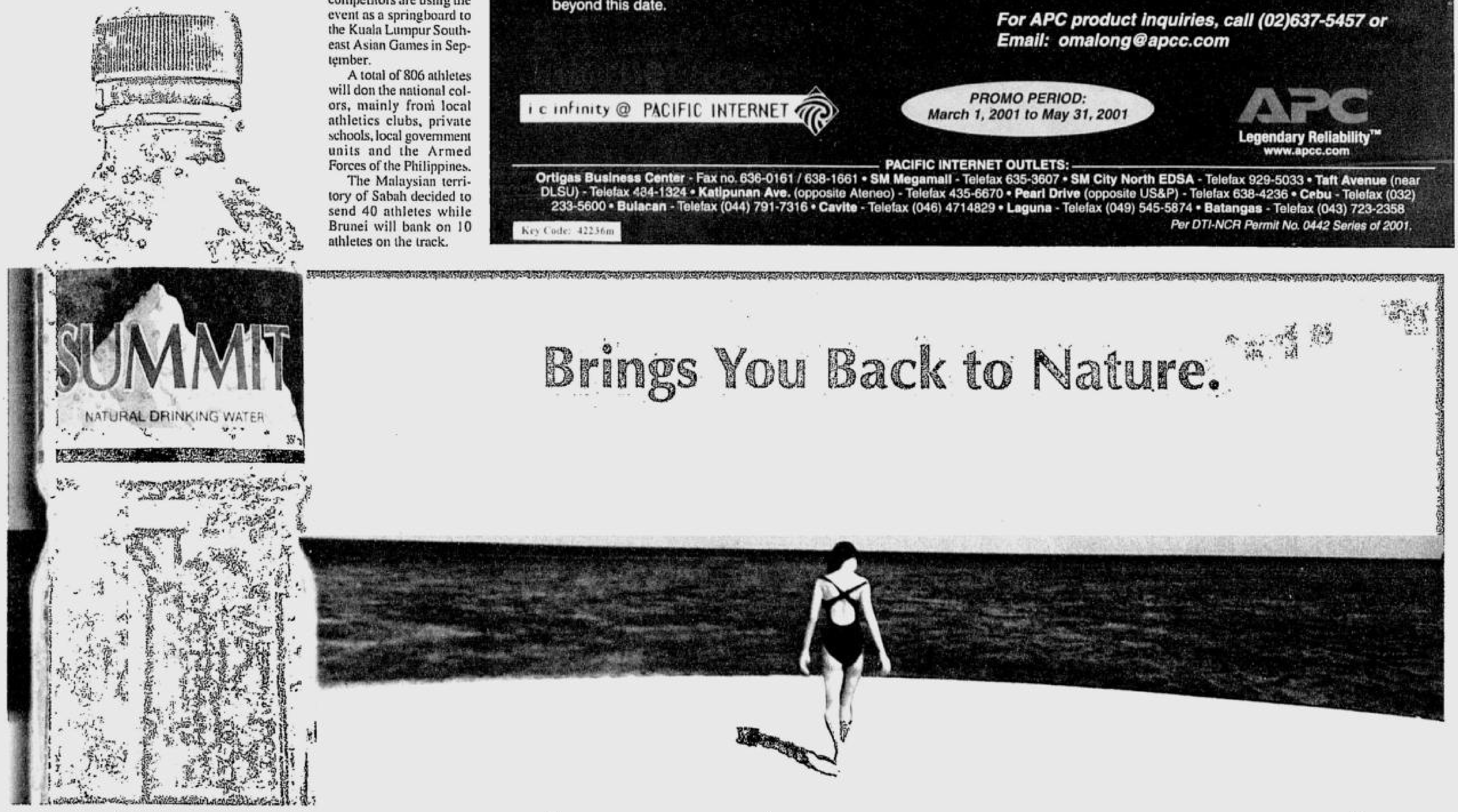


Frame-up, bet says of arrests A28

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'1506, Martin,' American says before dying of 18 stab wounds A29

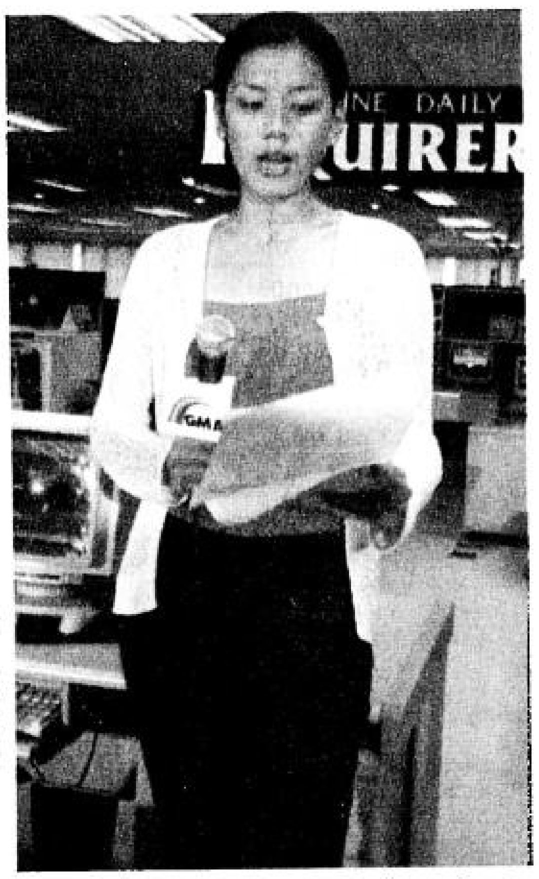
3 armed men caught in Veterans hospital

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE on Saturday night arrested three supporters of a Laguna mayor for carrying guns inside their vehicle when they tried to get into the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center where former President Joseph Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are confined.

The Central Police District identified the suspects as Cesar L. Moldez, 41, of 130 Silangan St., Barangay Bayug, Los Baños, Laguna; Antonio T. Avelino Jr., 31, of 41 Villegas St.,

3 ARMED/ A28



A PRETTY FACE helps, says Rhea Santos of GMA 7. JESS YUSON

Giving you the truth on today's elections

WITH THE exception of former President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, no other news event of recent times appears to be as closely watched and as hyped as today's elections.

For GMA-7 talent Rhea Santos, the INQUIRER newsroom on Pasong Tamo Street in Makati will be the backdrop of the unfolding history the elections will write.

Until tomorrow, Santos, 21, will be on remote coverage from the editorial offices of the

GIVING YOU/ A28

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Student drowns off Pier 4

A 14-YEAR-OLD student drowned while he and his friends were swimming in the Super Ferry docking area at Pier 4 in North Harbor, Tondo, Manila Friday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Marlon Capula, a resident of Area A, Parola Compound, Tondo, Manila.

SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. of the Western Police District Homicide Section said that about 3 p.m., Capula and his friends were swimming near the Super Ferry's terminal when the boy's friends saw Capula trashing about and beginning to sink.

Capula probably suffered cramps, Rival said.

Police said frogmen from a nearby Coast Guard outpost tried to rescue the boy but they failed. Around 5 p.m., the PCG team retrieved the body of Capula.

The body was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz, Manila for autopsy. *Myla Torres*

Runaway jeep kills 2

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO MEN died while two others were seriously injured when a wayward owner-type jeep ran over pedestrians before ramming into another vehicle in Manila before dawn yesterday.

Police identified the fatalities as Mark Mapugay, 21, of Agua Marina Street, San Andres Bukid, Manila, and Rafael Perez, 39, of Arellano Street, Sta. Ana.

Seriously injured were Mapugay's companion Philipton Zuñiga, 21, of Del Pan, Sta. Ana, and the jeep's owner, Giacomo Castillo, 30, of Eloriaga Street, Sta. Ana.

Castillo was driving his jeep (VBB-735) in Sta. Ana at about 5 a.m. when, upon reaching Arellano Street, he lost control of the vehicle, said SPO3 Ric Daa of the Western Police District Traffic Enforcement Group.

Castillo hit Mapugay and Zuñiga, who were both waiting for a ride home, before his jeep slammed into Perez's parked vehicle (UNX-371), Daa said.

Perez, who was then pouring water into his car's radiator, was pinned to death, his body almost cut in half. Mapugay died minutes after Castillo ran over him, police said.

Castillo, on the other hand, broke his rib cage when the steering wheel rammed onto his chest. He is now confined at the Ospital ng Makati, Daa said. Police are investigating if Castillo was drunk when he was driving his vehicle.

Taxi kills 7-year-old

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy who lost his mother's grip while they were crossing Quirino Avenue in Manila was hit and crushed by a speeding taxi on Saturday morning.

Miguel Padanyaw, of Block 25 Lot 11, Power Village, Sapang Palay, Bulacan, was rushed to the Ospital ng Maynila where he died a few hours later.

SPO1 Rodrigo Timbio of the city traffic police said that at 7:20 a.m. Saturday, the boy and his mother Marlyn were crossing Quirino Avenue in Malate when the boy accidentally let go of his mother's hand in the middle of the road and panicked to catch up with her.

But a PJC Transport Corp. taxi (PWA-923) driven by Avelino Falcon, 56, struck the boy and crushed him, police said.

Falcon, a resident of Phase 3, Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, surrendered to police. He was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Jeusa Raflores

A new standard in boxing

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(WELCOME: Don Miguel Torres, gentleman from Spain, is here on a three-day visit. Not to observe how Filipinos conduct national elections. This is one patently chaotic and bloody process, which we are not supposed to share with the world. The visitor, an expert on good living, is here to impart some secrets of success. He's also expected to bare why the genuine brandy drink which carries his family name has registered new records in the local wine market, despite problems hobbling the national economy).

* * *

THE experts were unanimous in their fears. They felt boxer Felix Trinidad could end up humiliated and demolished after he decided to move up one full division and challenged for the world middleweight crown.

He was very silly fighting at a great disadvantage, boxing scholars warned.

Well, it had been said of great explorers, like Sir Edmund Hillary, the first human being to conquer Mt. Everest.

It had been said of the first navigators who decided to sail around the world if just to prove that the globe was not flat.

All of these great adventurers were branded as fools who practically stood no chance of winning.

* * *

Look, if his motherland Puerto Rico always held its breath whenever Trinidad would fight abroad, his countrymen must have died a little when he finally stepped before his opponent at the Madison Square Garden yesterday.

Felix Trinidad indeed appeared like a junior aspirant going blindly for a senior veteran's crown.

William Joppy, the defending world middleweight boxing champion, was menace personified. Tough, muscle-bound, Joppy appeared as though he had been cut out of a rock.

The initial fear was that Trinidad, a shy altar boy, could end up like a kid who had been mauled by a bunch of pier thugs.

* * *

Just one barrage in the opening round, signaled off by an axe-like left to the face, bared what some experts had refused to consider. That Felix Trinidad was, in fact, a natural middleweight. And that all he had needed was the chance to break away from his cramping welterweight shell.

Moving up to the 160-pound level did wonders to his game.

So, to the doubters who felt Trinidad should have stayed in the welterweight backyard, the Puerto Rican miracle man can now be likened to the turtle that his would-be torturers had opted to throw into the river.

Instead of suffering in a totally strange turf, Trinidad excelled and has undoubtedly carved out another defining moment in his career.

Joppy must've have been the most surprised guy inside the Madison Square Garden yesterday.

"Oscar de la Hoya laid down the blueprint for beating this guy (Trinidad)," Joppy declared in a pre-fight verbal jab. "I didn't need to see it because he's a come-forward fighter who can't deal with movement. I don't have a plan set in stone. I want to see him in person. But if I get in a fight and I see that movement is making it hard for him, I'm going to move."

Joppy did make his move. But the most memorable of these efforts were his desperate clinches after he got rocked with sharp, cracking combinations at mid-ring.

It's both odd and funny, but Joppy in that fight was like a drowning kid who had to fight again and again to reach shore. His thudding falls, mainly face-first slams to the resin floor, were among the most hideous in world boxing championship history.

* * *

As expected, the other main worry expressed about Trinidad centered on speed. Would he, for example, be able to maintain his speed to keep up with Joppy, described as a skillful, active and sly natural middleweight?

Well, it's not easy to graphically picture what has transformed Trinidad into an even greater fighter after he moved to middleweight proper.

This could be a little exaggerated but it would seem that he had grown at least two extra hands during the fight with Joppy.

Trinidad displayed a lot more speed and accuracy.

Maybe he had also developed another pair of eyes. His bobbing defense, mainly during close-in clashes, was nearly impeccable.

* * *

There was actually a call before the fight started on television. It was from my *balikbayan* friend, Ramon Albano, an original gin buddy at the UST, and he wanted to know if he did right in betting a case of beer on Tito Trinidad.

He was told it was a good bet.

Now, after that great victory, it's easier to call Felix Trinidad the greatest pound for pound boxer on the planet.

You see, it's been said of the Boston Celtics, at the height of their NBA fame in the '70s, that sometimes it looked like they had two or three more players on the court. They were always quicker, fiercer, sharper than their poor opponents.

The Celtics had indeed brought the game of basketball to a new level.

Trinidad has scored something similar in his latest feat. No, he did not only seem to have grown extra pairs of eyes and hands yesterday.

Felix Trinidad has restored genuine nobility to the sport, which had been wanting in genuine heroes these past years.

(This actually called for a double celebration in Puerto Rico which only the day before captured the Miss Universe crown in San Juan, through the grace, gifts and charm of hometown beauty Denise Quinones.)

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• SAILING SCHEDULE •

From MANILA

TO	DEPARTURE DAY	DEPARTURE TIME	VESSEL	PIER	ARRIVAL DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	FRI	9:00 am	SF 14	P4	SAT	3:00 am	BREDCO
CAGAYAN	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	6:00 pm	PUNTOD
	FRI	9:00 am	SF 14	P4	SAT	5:00 pm	PUNTOD
ILOILO	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	4:00 am	LOBOC

From BACOLOD

TO	DEPARTURE DAY	DEPARTURE TIME	VESSEL	PIER	ARRIVAL DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	PIER
BATANGAS	WED	2:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	4:00 am	BTS
CAGAYAN	SAT	5:00 am	SF 14	BREDCO	SAT	5:00 pm	PUNTOD
MANILA	WED	2:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	11:00 am	P4

From BATANGAS

TO	DEPARTURE DAY	DEPARTURE TIME	VESSEL	PIER	ARRIVAL DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	PIER
MANILA	THU	5:00 am	SF 14	BTS	THU	11:00 am	P4

From CAGAYAN de ORO

TO	DEPARTURE DAY	DEPARTURE TIME	VESSEL	PIER	ARRIVAL DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	WED	11:59 am	BREDCO
BATANGAS	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	4:00 am	BTS
ILOILO	SAT	9:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	SUN	9:00 am	LOBOC
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	11:00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	MON	5:00 am	P4

From ILOILO

TO	DEPARTURE DAY	DEPARTURE TIME	VESSEL	PIER	ARRIVAL DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	TUE	6:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	TUE	6:00 pm	PUNTOD
MANILA	SUN	11:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	MON	5:00 am	P4

—— schedule may change without prior notice ——

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Kasalukuyan nang iniimbestigahan ang mga utak ng rebelyon. Ang mga kapatid nating maralita ay binibigyan na ng kaukulang tulong ng pamahalaan. Si Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ay nagbigay na ng utos na siguruhin na maayos ang kalagayan ng mga demonstrador na nasa kulungan at, kasabay nito, na walang nilalabag na karapatang pantao. Ipinag-utos din ng Pangulo na pawalan na ang mga demostrador at tulungang makauwi sa kani-kanilang probinsya o tahanan. Bigyan ng pamasahe, kung kinakailangan.

Ito ay hindi laban ng mayaman sa mahirap o simbahan sa kapwa simbahan. Ito ay Pilipino laban sa kahirapan. Magkakaroon ng tunay na kaunlaran at katahimikan kung malulutas ang kakulangan ng trabaho, hanapbuhay o negosyo, bubong sa ulo, pagkain sa bawa't mesa, edukasyon para sa kabataan at pabahay.

Maibubuwal natin ang kahirapan kung magkakapit-bisig ang gobyerno at pribadong sektor, ang manggagawa at mamumuhunan, ang mayaman at mahirap.

Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating kapwa.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating sarili, sa ating kakayahan.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating pamahalaan, sa ating bayan.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating Panginoon.

Isang paghamon ng Diwa ng EDSA

ADVT.

Bomb threat vs VACC

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

TENSION gripped the office of the partylist group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption when an unidentified caller threatened to bomb the establishment in Manila at noon yesterday.

Rhian Mark Bigornia, 20, said fellow VACC staff member Hermie Velitario, 20, got a call from a man, who refused to identify himself at 8:45 a.m.

The man, whose voice "seemed to have come from the grave," told Velitario he planted a bomb at the VACC office on the third floor of the Pope Pius Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue.

"I will bomb your office at noon," Velitario quoted the man as saying.

The man never called again, Bigornia said.

Bigornia and Velitario reported the bomb threat to VACC chair Dante Jimenez, who immediately sought assistance from the nearby Western Police District Headquarters.

Jimenez also told Bigornia and Velitario to vacate the office and salvage the tables they would use to prepare the VACC sample ballot for today's election.

Three members of the WPD bomb squad arrived at the VACC office at 12:30 p.m. They searched the area and declared it clear of explosives about 15 minutes later, Bigornia said.

Jimenez said the VACC lately had been receiving several bomb threats.

"To those behind these threats, please spare us. Don't victimize us since we're already victims here."

Frame-up, bet says of arrests

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

A REELECTIONIST Manila congressman yesterday accused the brother of his rival of framing up two of his supporters on charges of vote-buying.

Liberal Party Rep. Nestor Ponce of Manila's second district accused former Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez of Lakas-NUCD of "instigating (an) illegal and high-handed raid" on Saturday afternoon on the office of Kapanalig, a non-government organization helping in Ponce's campaign.

Lopez issued a statement yesterday saying he would file disqualification charges against Ponce for using his House of Representatives allegedly to buy votes.

Earlier reports said Ponce's supporters, Antonio Pajaro and Rosalinda Dayrit, were arrested Saturday by a composite team from the Commission on Elections and the Western Police District for allegedly distributing T-shirts and envelopes containing P200 each.

Lakas-NUCD legal counsel Rodolfo Galing reportedly tipped Comelec officials about the two supporters' movements and later charged them with making residents in the area sign receipts.

In a press statement, Ponce accused Lopez of using dirty tricks to discredit him.

Lopez's brother Jaime served three terms as congressman in Ponce's district before Ponce took over in 1998. Jaime Lopez is running against Ponce in today's elections.

Lopez, who served as OIC of Manila in 1986 and won as mayor in 1988, attempted twice to recapture the mayoralty of Manila in 1995 and 1998. He failed in both tries.

Kapanalig chair Gilbert Lozada told the INQUIRER that his organization was only "distributing T-shirts, sample ballots and meal and transportation allowances to its members to assist them (while) campaigning and supporting Ponce."

"This is not a case of vote-buying as claimed by Lopez as (Kapanalig gives allowances) to its members to help them in various tasks during the campaign," Lozada said.

Mel Lopez said disqualification charges would also be filed against reelectionist Mayor Lito Atienza, vice mayoralty candidate Ernesto Dionesio and Liberal party candidates for 2nd district councilor Marlon Lacson, Ruben Buenaventura, Edward Tan, Danilo Varona, Pacifico Laxa and newcomer Adel Villa.

Giving you ...

(From page 25)

country's leading newspaper as part of the Inquirer's tie-up with GMA-7 and other telecommunications companies for a multi-media election coverage.

Ironically, Santos will not be able to cast her vote today. She lives in Marikina and has to be at the station to host "Unang Hirit" at 5 a.m., after which she will be on standby for the news breaks with only one-and-a-half hour breaks in between.

But she comes prepared for her special assignment with the network that gave her a break in broadcast journalism after she graduated from St. Paul's College in Quezon City about a year ago.

"We were made to review the Bill of Rights and the election offenses like vote buying, the gun ban," she says. "But mostly, it's self-preparation. I had to read newspapers and news magazines."

Santos says she welcomes special assignments like this election coverage.

"It's when I am in touch with people," she says. "It's more challenging. And I like the feeling that people trust you to give them the truth. But it's a big responsibility that you have to live up to."

She admits, though, that she is still "a greenhorn" and still has a long way to go to "earn credibility." She hopes to do that through experience in the field.

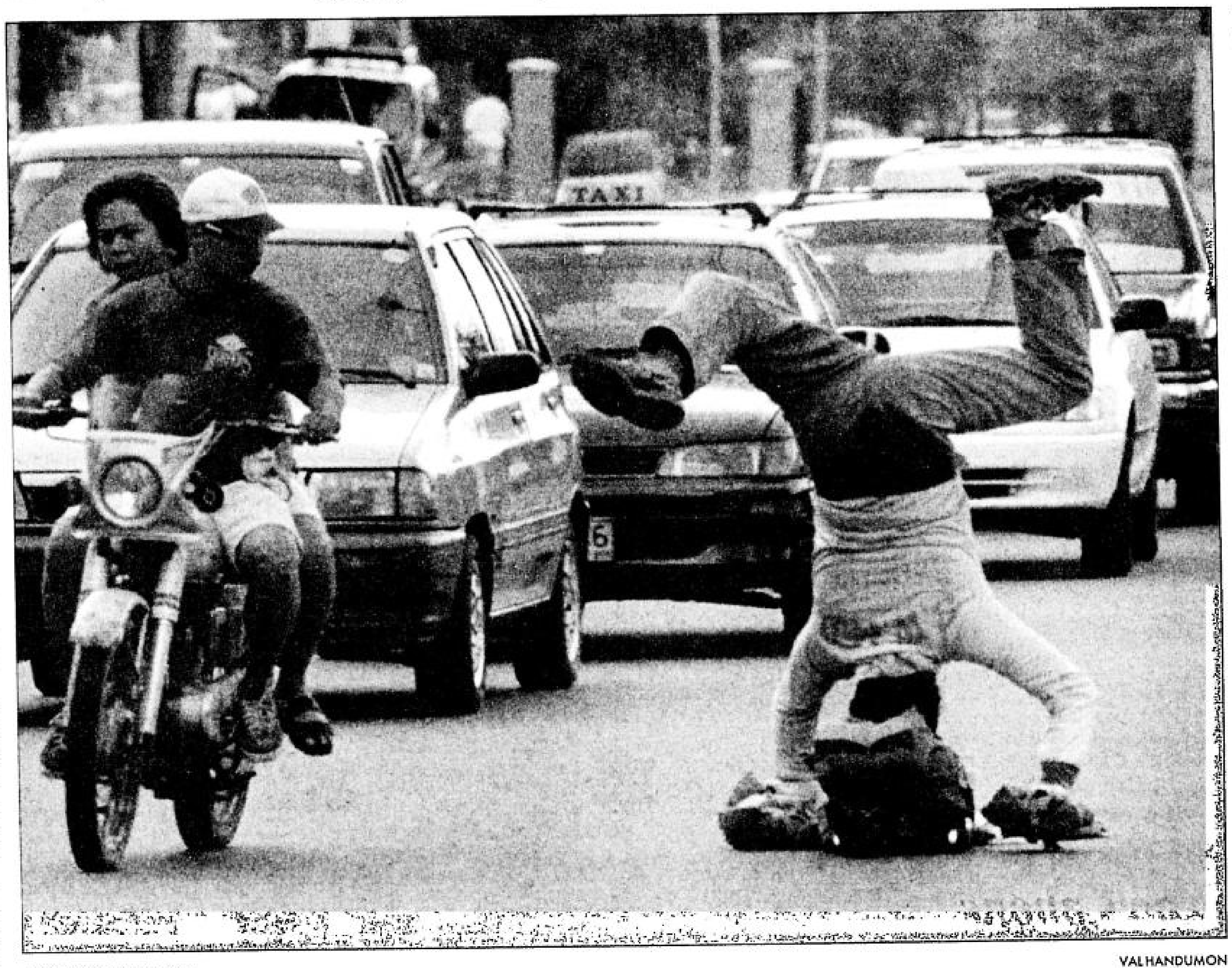
Although she started out as a segment producer for GMA-7's "Unang Hirit," she has apparently learned the ropes enough to host "Barangay Earth," which tackles environmental issues and monitors atrocities against nature. Unfortunately, she no longer gets to write her own scripts but she joins in brainstorm sessions with the producers and voices her own ideas.

As a talent, Santos says she is effective and convincing in her delivery of the news.

"As a newscaster, you're just (confined) to that box and it's important that you come across as sincere," she says.

Among her GMA-7 colleagues, she admires Susan Enriquez for reporting live "without idiot boards," Maki Pulido who covered the pro-Erap march on Malacañang on May 1, and Arnold Clavio "who's really my idol."

Ultimately, Santos hopes to be a broadcast journalist and not just be popular as a newsreader with a pretty face, "although that helps." *Nini Valera*



VALHANDUMON

STREET SHOW

This man seems head over heels with glee over the conclusion of the election campaign season. The unidentified man, in fact, just likes to show off by "walking" on his head along Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City.

Four officers robbed me, says trader

A BUSINESSMAN on Friday accused four police officers of robbing him P270,000 in Binondo, Manila, after they arrested him four days ago for alleged drug pushing.

Abulkair Mira-Alto, 26, married, a resident of 1820-A Globo de Oro St., Quiapo said the policemen from the Western Police District station 11 barged into his store in Binondo on May 8.

He identified only three of the suspects—Insp. Ricardo Layug, a certain Insp. Manuel and PO1 Ferdinand Casipe.

The complainant, backed by a witness named Nasruddin Sumpa, told SPO3 Diosdado Lagajino of the WPD's general assignment section that he was in the store on San Nicolas Street when the incident took place around 11:30 a.m.

He told SPO3 Lagajino that during the raid, the officers took and did not return his black clutch bag containing P240,000, his Nokia 3310 cell phone worth P7,400, and another P30,000 cash.

Mira-Alto claimed he was brought to Station 11 on Jesus Street in Pandacan, where he was allegedly beaten up by policemen to force him to own the crime.

The complainant said he refused and the suspects even threatened to kill him. He said he was eventually released after he promised that he would not file charges against them.

But he said he decided to file charges anyway after he learned that the policemen meant to "silence" him.

The suspects have been summoned by the GAS to explain their side. They are facing charges of robbery, extortion, grave threats, illegal arrest and incriminatory machination or planting of evidence. *Jerome Aning, Carina Roncesvalles*

3 armed . . .

(From page 25)

Barangay Baybayin, Los Baños, and Hugo L. Ramos, 76, of 1236 Burol St., Mayordon, also of Los Baños.

The suspects are supporters of Los Baños Mayor Francisco Lapis. They were on board a Toyota Revo with government license plates (SFN-577) when police arrested them around 6:45 p.m. when they tried to get in through the hospital's Gate I, said investigator SPO1 Danilo Tan.

Police seized from the suspects a .45 cal. pistol with six live rounds and two magazines, a snub-nosed .38 revolver with five rounds contained in a black belt bag, two Motorola radios and a nine-inch fan knife.

Authorities found the guns and the fan knife inside the vehicle's glove compartment.

Police said the suspects could not present the proper documents showing ownership of the guns or that they are exempted from the election gun ban.

"They said they were supposed to fetch the mayor at the hospital," Tan said. "They claimed they did not know there were guns in the vehicle."

The three men also told police they Lapis' supporters and not his bodyguards.

SPO1 Tan could not confirm if Lapis was at the hospital Saturday. The Veteran's information desk also could not confirm to the INQUIRER if the mayor was confined at the hospital.

Police filed charges of illegal possession of firearms and violation of the election gun ban yesterday at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director, told the INQUIRER he has ordered a thorough investigation of the incident. He said the police still have no evidence linking the incident to the presence of Estrada and his son at the hospital.

"Be assured that the former President is well guarded," Tor said. "We have an ample security force around the former President."

Carpenter shot dead while visiting mom

CARPENTER Mateo M. Rescordado was shot dead while visiting his mother in her home in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

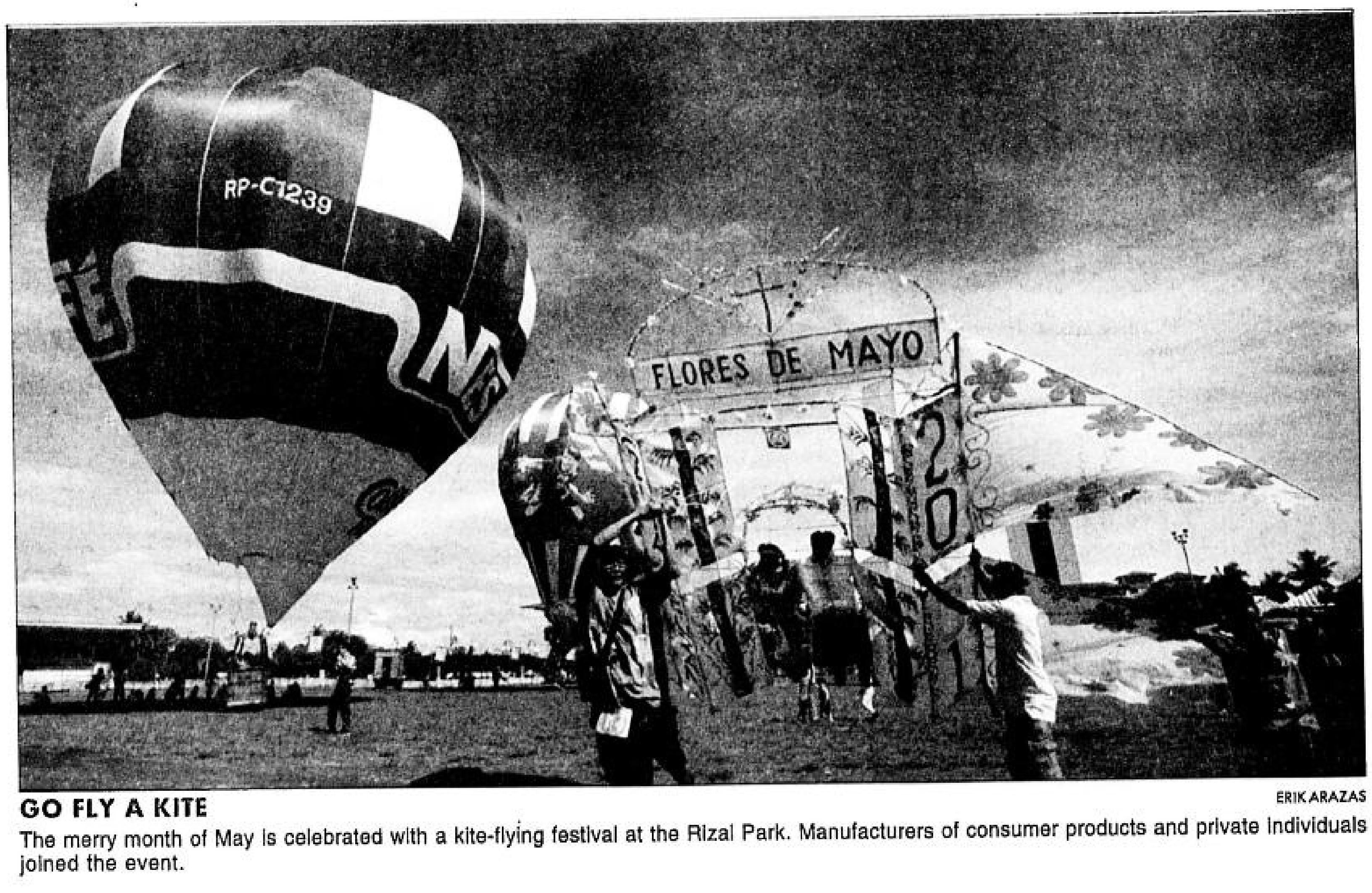
Rescordado, 40, of Antipolo City died after an unidentified man shot him outside his mother's house at 27 Kalayaan B, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, said investigator P02 Jose Salazar, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

The carpenter did not make it to the hospital alive. He died from the single gunshot wound in the head, Salazar added.

Salazar said Rescordado had just come out of his mother's home around 11 p.m. Wednesday when the gunman appeared, blocked his way and shot him.

When Rescordado fell, blood oozing from his head, the gunman fled, Salazar said.

He said that Fe Rescordado, the victim's sister, brought the carpenter to the Malvar Hospital, but it was already too late. *Philip C. Tubeza*



ERIK ARAZAS

GO FLY A KITE

The merry month of May is celebrated with a kite-flying festival at the Rizal Park. Manufacturers of consumer products and private individuals joined the event.

Ballot box padlocks not missing, says poll man

BALLOT BOX padlocks, metal seals and forms had not been stolen in Pasay City, according to lawyer Lope T. Gayo Jr., the city's acting election officer.

Gayo was reacting to yesterday's report that these election items had been stolen.

"Everyone is welcome to see for themselves that no thievery has ever happened," Gayo said yesterday. "Or, they can call me at our Comelec office at 551-0595 or 551-0393."

On Thursday, employees of the Pasay City Treasurer's Office told the Comelec that 1,440 padlocks, which the Comelec delivered to the city government last week, were missing.

"We were surprised to find all the new padlocks for the ballot boxes were missing," said an employee from the city treasurer's office.

"The theft could have been an inside job because the padlocks were kept inside the Records Section," the source said.

Parañaque lawyer not running; another says he is

LAWYER Ceferino Padua of Parañaque City yesterday said he is not running in today's elections, while another lawyer, Aurelio M. Umali of Nueva Ecija, said he is.

The two lawyers wrote the INQUIRER to correct the list of candidates for congressmen that appeared in this section yesterday.

The list included Padua's name as one of the candidates for the congressional seat of Parañaque. But Padua said that while he originally filed a certificate of candidacy, he withdrew it later and joined the party-list Overseas Filipino Workers as one of its nominees.

Umali, through his campaign manager Dennis Agtay, pointed out that his name was omitted in the INQUIRER list.

Agtay said that Umali is a candidate for congressman in the 3rd district of Nueva Ecija.

Instead of Umali's name, the list had the name Lamberto Magbitang, who is in fact running in the 4th district of the province, said Agtay.

Robbers take businesswoman's P300,000

A BUSINESSWOMAN lost P300,000 worth of jewelry to robbers who broke into her home in Quezon City on Friday.

Edna M. Gesmundo, of 26-A Alley 2, Project 6, Quezon City, was not at home when the robbers struck in broad daylight, said investigator PO3 Ferdinand Paredes of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Paredes said the robbers struck between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. They were able to get into the house after they destroyed the locks on the main door.

The robbers ransacked a built-in cabinet in the master's bedroom where the jewelry was stored, Paredes said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Security guard slain in front of his cousin

SECURITY guard Wilfredo A. Sagsagat was stabbed dead in front of his cousin while they were waiting for a ride in front of the SM City North Edsa mall before dawn on Saturday.

Sagsagat, 27, of Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, died after the unidentified man stabbed him at the corner of Edsa and West Avenue, said investigator PO2 Pedrito Miranda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The cousin said he and Sagsagat were waiting for a ride home around 2 a.m. yesterday when the suspect struck.

Miranda said Sagsagat was brought to the Veteran's Memorial Hospital but he was declared dead on arrival at 2:25 a.m.

Recruiter hunted for taking fish vendor's ₱95,000

By Christian V. Esguerra

A WOMAN suspected of being an illegal recruiter allegedly took at least P95,000 from a fish vendor in San Andres, Manila for non-existent jobs in London, England.

Police are hunting down Cerina Tiglao, 35, of 2374 Granale St. in San Andres Bukid, Manila after fish vendor Lucila Mercado, 60, of Malolos, Bulacan filed a complaint with the Western Police District Headquarters.

Mercado told police she could no longer find Tiglao at her address after she gave her money from November 2000 until January this year.

She said Tiglao was a regular customer of her fish stall at the Dagonoy Public Market in San Andres.

Last November, Tiglao told Mercado she needed Filipino workers for a hotel she owns in London England, according to case investigator Cecilia Sacrum.

Mercado said she immediately recommended her son Marcial and daughter Melinda to Tiglao, who asked her to raise huge amounts for the processing of her children's application.

She said that on Nov. 27, she gave Tiglao an initial payment of P15,000, but she was not given a receipt for the amount.

Mercado said that from Dec. 2 to 18, she shelled out P70,000. After she paid Tiglao another P10,000 on Jan. 12, Tiglao disappeared, she said.

Last Saturday, Mercado went to the WPD headquarters on United Nations Avenue to file a complaint against Tiglao.

Members of the WPD General Assignments Section said they would file estafa charges against Tiglao.

'1506, Martin,' American says before dying of 18 stab wounds

By Blanche S. Rivera

"1506. MARTIN."

These were the last words uttered by American Andrew Copola before he died of 18 stab wounds at the Medical City on Friday.

Police said Copola, 42, was a victim of a crime of passion. His Filipino girlfriend, Elizabeth Martinez of Angono, Rizal, reportedly went amuck when the American refused to bear responsibility for the child Martinez is carrying.

Insp. Rodante Arcigal of the Pasig Police said "1506" was the room number of Martinez at the Renaissance Tower on Meralco Avenue, and "Martin" was short for Martinez.

The pregnant Martinez had already left her house in Rizal when police arrived to question her.

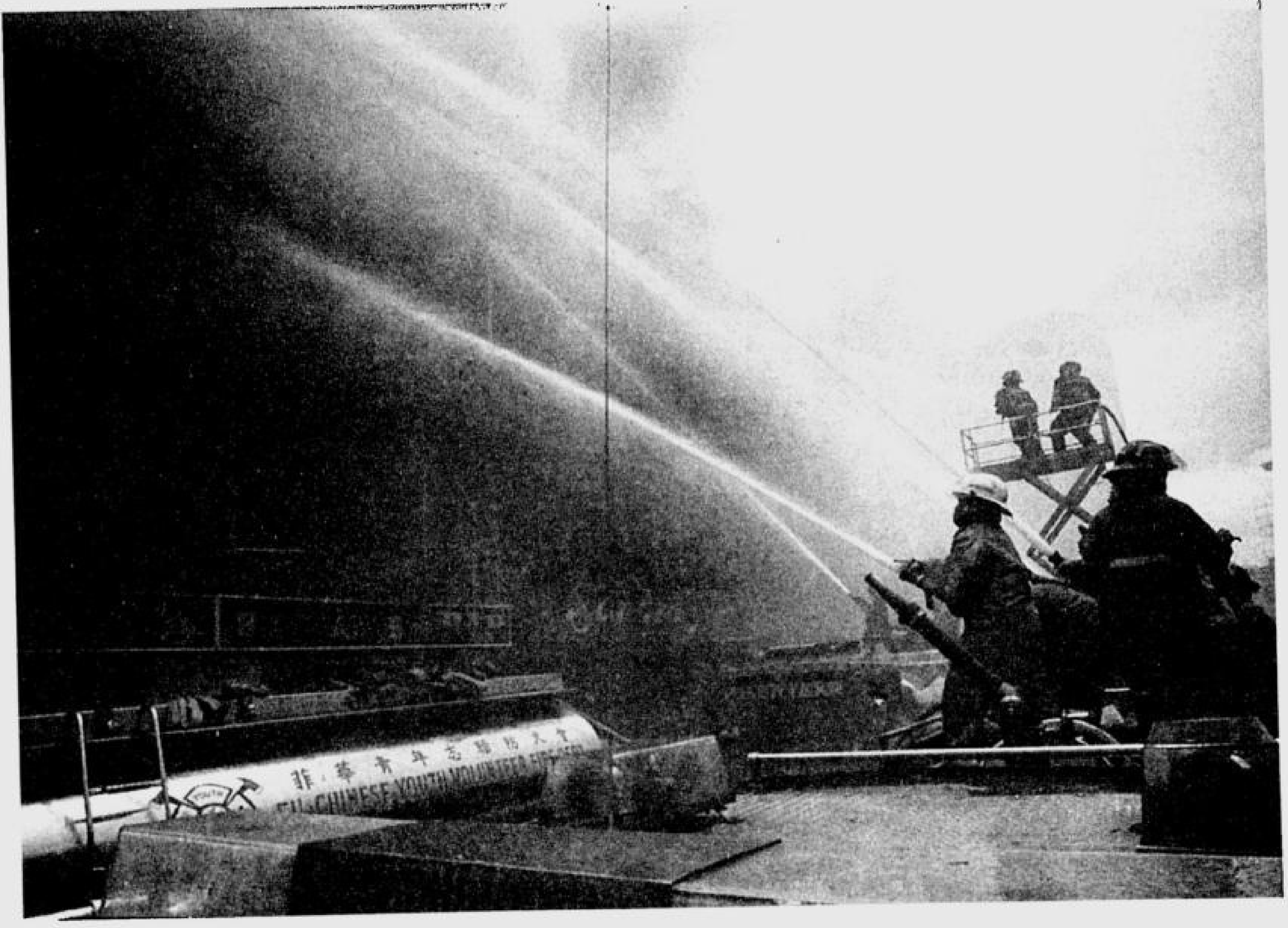
She is still at large.

Arcigal said Martinez, along with her father and sister, went to confront Copola inside room 802, where the American was staying Friday morning.

Martinez reportedly wanted to discuss with Copola their relationship and possible arrangements for the child, police said.

But the discussion turned ugly when Copola allegedly refused to recognize the child as his. Martinez flew into a rage and stabbed Copola several times, Arcigal said.

Copola managed to run to the elevator and reach the building's basement before he collapsed. Renaissance Tower Security guards found him and took him to nearby Medical City where he died.



NO FIRE DRILL

Firefighters and volunteers try to put out the flames gutting a building housing the Acceed Computer School on C. M. Recto in Manila. The fire broke out Sunday.

ERIK ARAZAS

Another man shot dead in Quezon City market

A MAN from Lanao del Sur was shot dead Friday night at the Manggahan wet market in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, the latest to fall in that same market.

Several policemen and traders were murdered late last year at the Manggahan market after police tried to clear the area of illegal vendors.

Abraham Zaldy P. Tawan-Tawan, 23, of 2 Rosal St., Ramirez Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City, died after an unidentified man shot him in the head, said investigator PO1 Renato Hamor of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Tawan-Tawan was tending his stall at the Manggahan market along Commonwealth Avenue when the gunman struck around 7 p.m. Friday, Hamor said.

"For still unknown reasons, the suspect brought out his gun of unknown caliber and shot Tawan-tawan," Hamor reported.

He said Tawan-Tawan was shot in the back of the head, and the bullet went out near the man's right ear.

Hamor said that after the single shot rang out, the gunman ran.

Policemen from the Batasan Hills police station brought Tawan-Tawan to the East Avenue Medical Center, but the victim was declared dead on arrival at 8:40 p.m., Hamor said.

The victim's cadaver was brought to the hospital's morgue after it remained unclaimed.

The police were trying to get the statements of witnesses who could provide a description of Tawan-Tawan's killer, Hamor added. *Philip C. Tubeza*

'Good-looking' teeners snatch woman cop's phone

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICEWOMAN SPO4 Noli de la Cruz lost her cellular phone to two "good-looking" teenage robbers in Quezon City Saturday night.

De la Cruz, 46, of Phase J B-18 L-10 Francisco homes, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, lost her Nokia 3210 to the two young men who held her up near the Quezon City Hall, said P01 Rommel Merino of the Kamuning police station.

The policewoman described the two suspects as 5-foot-1 to 5-foot-3, fair complexioned, sporting short haircuts, and "good-looking," Merino said.

Dela Cruz was waiting for a ride around 8:30 p.m. Saturday on East Avenue near the Elliptical Road when the boys approached her casually and, when they got near enough, suddenly took out fan knives and announced a holdup, police said.

They took De la Cruz's cell phone and then they boarded a passenger bus going to Edsa, Merino said.

De la Cruz chased the suspects who alighted in front of the Philippine Heart Center. She lost them in the alleys of Barangay Central, Merino added.

Authorities are now increasing police presence at the Quezon Circle Memorial Circle. At night, the Elliptical Road becomes the hangout of snatchers, robbers and prostitutes.

They usually prey on commuters waiting for a ride in front of City Hall.

FIRE DRILL

A member of the staff of the Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila is "rescued" by rescue and fire teams of both the hotel and the Makati City government. The fire drill is part of the hotel's safety program and fire prevention measures.

Caloocan restaurants 'disabled-unfriendly,' says group of PWDs

By TJ Burgonio

A GROUP of disabled persons denounced four restaurants in Caloocan City for being unfriendly to the handicapped and for violating the Accessibility Law.

Manuel Batac, president of the Pinagbuklod Bagong Pag-asa Association Inc., lodged a complaint with the Department of Justice against Max's, Hen Lin and Rich Apple restaurants, all located on 10th Avenue, and the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet on 11th Avenue.

Batac, himself suffering from progressive muscular distrophy and bound to a wheelchair, said the establishments either lack facilities for persons with disability (PWDs) or their facilities were not properly built.

Batac, who was then head of the Accessibility Task Force Building Inspection of the Caloocan Development Committee for Persons with Disability, conducted an inspection last year and discovered the four restaurants were violating Batas Pambansa 344 or the Accessibility Law.

He said he sent several letters to the managers of the restaurants informing them of their violations and called them to a formal meeting, but to no avail.

"That's why I was forced to file a complaint," he said.

In his complaint, Batac said Max's restaurant has an access ramp which was too steep and led directly to the road. He explained any wheelchair-bound PWD descending on it risked being sideswiped by a passing vehicle.

Also, the restroom and elevator of the restaurant were too small for a person on wheelchair, he said.

Like Max's, Hen Lin and KFC's access ramps were also built adjacent, and not parallel, to the road. KFC's restroom for the disabled was also being used as a stock room, Batac said.

Rich Apple on the other hand, doesn't have any ramp, restroom and parking area for PWDs, he said.

Do you know these 2 British nationals?

BRITISH police are looking for two British nationals who have been missing for several years and who may be in the Philippines.

China Rose Sims, who would now be 36, was born in the Philippines and met her English husband, David James Sims, 56, while he was here on a business trip. The couple married in 1988 and moved to the United Kingdom, where they bought a house in Southend in 1991.

Rose was last seen at a family party on Feb. 14, 1993, although her husband was seen, apparently alone, two months later at their Southend home.

Concern for Rose has grown because it was known at the time of her disappearance that she was unhappy with her marriage and wanted to leave her husband. She was also aware that her father, to whom she was very close, was in poor health in the Philippines.

A friend of Sims later told police that he had sold the house in Southend for Sims and had put the proceeds into a bank account in the name of Anthony Peter Lewis, an alias used in the past by Sims,

Recent information has been received which suggests that Sims may have been back in Manila since 1997.

Rose is about 5-foot-3, with black shoulder-length hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. She often wore jewelry, particularly dangling earrings. She had a good grasp of English, although she spoke with a pronounced accent.

David Sims is 5-foot-ll, with short greying, receding hair, which may be dyed black. He has brown eyes, a fresh complexion, and is of stocky build. He has a south Essex accent. He has also used the aliases Tony Sims and Tony Lewis.

Anyone with any information about the present location of either Rose or David Sims is asked to contact Detective Constable Fred Simpkins of Essex Constabulary, at 01702 423169, or the senior investigating officer, Detective Superintendent Steve Reynolds, at 01245 491491. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

E-mail can be sent to *Webmaster@essex.police.uk*

Alternatively, local callers may contact Consular section in the British Embassy, Manila on 8167116.

Observe rules on prisoners, says BJMP

JAIL officers in 1,253 town and city jails under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology should strictly observe the United Nations standard minimum rules on the treatment of prisoners, according to BJMP officer-in-charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit.

The rules, first submitted for consideration by the UN Congress on the Prevention of Crimes and Treatment of Offenders held in Geneva in 1955 and approved by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1957, represent the minimum conditions that are accepted as suitable by the UN.

The rules are intended to guard against mistreatment, particularly in connection with the enforcement of discipline and the use of instruments of restraint in penal institutions.

Alit's admonition came on the heels of his warning to BJMP personnel not to commit any abuses against inmates and their guests.

He issued the warning early last month when he and key officials of the bureau inspected jails in Metro Manila.

Alit said that to ensure strict observance of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, copies of the rules will again be distributed to all jail officers nationwide. He urged jail wardens to discuss the rules with their subordinates.

He said the UN has realized the great variety of legal, social, economic and geographical conditions obtaining in various parts of the world. Because of this, not all the rules can be applied in all places and at all times, he said.

One initiative that BJMP recently undertook to comply with the rules is the adoption of community participation in the rehabilitation of inmates. Under this concept, accredited government and non-government organizations, including media, will be given authority by BJMP to monitor the condition of any jail under the jurisdiction of the bureau and to make a report to the BJMP leadership to adopt corrective measures.

The UN has asked its members to adopt and apply the rules in the administration of their penal and correctional institutions. It also recommended that the UN secretary general be informed every five years of the progress made in applying the rules.

Alit also announced that all BJMP personnel would be placed on red alert status nationwide in connection with the May 14 elections. The alert status took effect May 12.

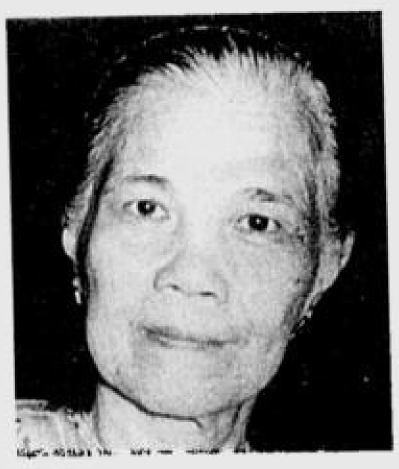
Under the red alert status, all participants for leave of personnel were cancelled. Personnel were ordered to stay at their posts during the red alert to prevent jailbreaks.

Missing

MAURA "Maring" F. Rabe has been missing since April 25, 2001.

She is 72, fair complexioned, five feet tall, toothless, slim, with short grey hair and a scar on the left cheek. When last seen, she was wearing a blue blouse and blue shorts, with red, yellow and orange polka dots.

If you see her, please call her husband, Leon Rabe, at 2311 Chromium, San Andres Bukid, Manila, 563-77721, 0917-520-0092 or 0917-899-1492.



Shoot-to-kill order vs 2 who bolted from Pasay jail

THE BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology on Thursday issued a shoot-to-kill order against two inmates who escaped from the Pasay City Jail the day before.

The Pasay City jail warden, Senior Supt. Augusto Retumban, said that inmates Wilfredo Leonzanida and Juancho Gutierrez would be shot if they would resist arrest.

Both detainees are facing charges of robbery, illegal possession of firearms and assault.

Jail officials said they have reason to believe cell leader Joel Capones is behind the jailbreak.

Capones was charged on Friday with murder and was transferred to the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City. Officials said the move was also meant to prevent any more escapes.

BJMP officials in Pasay City also tightened security measures in the jail and increased the number of checks they do on the inmates.

Officials were also looking into the possibility that some laborers at a nearby construction site helped the prisoners escape by providing them the metal saw which they used to cut off the bars on their cell window.

On April 28, 16 other inmates escaped from the Pasay City Jail also by sawing off the window bars of their cell. Ten have since surrendered or have been rearrested by authorities. *Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez, Lorraine Santos*

All-media coverage for 'Eleksyon 2001'

GMA breaks ground with the biggest election coverage in Philippine history—not just a multimedia, but a "converged" all-media coverage backed by the resources and logistics of the country's telecommunications giant, PLDT.

With a formidable army of over 1,200 radio, TV and print reporters, the "Eleksyon 2001" coverage of GMA takes viewers to almost a hundred remote points via the network's brand-new satelite news gathering (SNG) facilities and additional electronic news gathering (ENG) vans, plus the massive telecommunications arsenal of PLDT to give up-to-the-minute breaking news reports, when it happens, where it happens anywhere in the country.

Viewers in the country and abroad through their website will also get the speediest reports on the official election returns from Comelec as well as all the unofficial quick counts led by the AMA quick count, as the nation's fate unfold before their very eyes.

Taking public service a step further, they have installed a GMA-PLDT Call Center and Smart Text Services where the entire nation could direct election-related inquiries as well as poll-related problems.

Be part of this historic marathon coverage which kicks-off at 5 a.m. today on the nation's broadcast leader in news and public affairs, GMA.

Discounts for voters at Enchanted

AFTER its week-long anniversary festivities, Enchanted Kingdom holds another summer frenzy, "Operation Dagdag Bawas," an election day value-for-money treat of admission discounts and perks for voters today.

After voting, go boating at the theme park's newest Rio Grande Rapids, relax and enjoy "Dagdag Bawas" by simply showing your proof of voting (indelible ink).

The "dagdag" (plus) part entitles ride-all-you-can ticket holders to an EK special return ticket which they can use from May 15 to Oct. 31.

Patrons get to win exciting prizes in the "Rio Grande Pick-A-Prize" after taking a ride at the park's new family ride attraction, the Rio Grande Rapids.

EK is open today from 2 to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 830-2111 (Makati) or 843-6073 (Laguna).

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	MEXICAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBER
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAUA KA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MNUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	LUCKY NUMBERS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW SALVATION

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BUBOT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
9	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DIVINO
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	15 MINUTES
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?
4	BALIKTARAN

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	EXIT WOUNDS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	15 MINUTES THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LUCKY NUMBERS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SUGAR AND SPICE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	NARINIG... LATEST	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	15 MINUTES	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MAY 18 & 19 MOTHER TONGUE Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	FINDING FORRESTER	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	15 MINUTES	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	LUCKY NUMBERS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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6 GOLD (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan
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2	BALIKTARAN

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(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
5	15 MINUTES
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	MAY ISANG PUSO
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	15 MINUTES
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	RESERVE

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2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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5	BALIKTARAN

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3	BALIKTARAN
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5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

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2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	
5	

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

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2 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
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2	BALIKTARAN
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4 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Lianas MovieCity
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3	THE CROW

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3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2	BALIKTARAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Cabuyao
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1	BALIKTARAN

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2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall
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2	THE MEXICAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	EXIT WOUNDS

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2	BALIKTARAN
3	RESERVE
4	EXIT WOUNDS

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1 (DOLBY EX)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	BALIKTARAN
4 (DTS EX)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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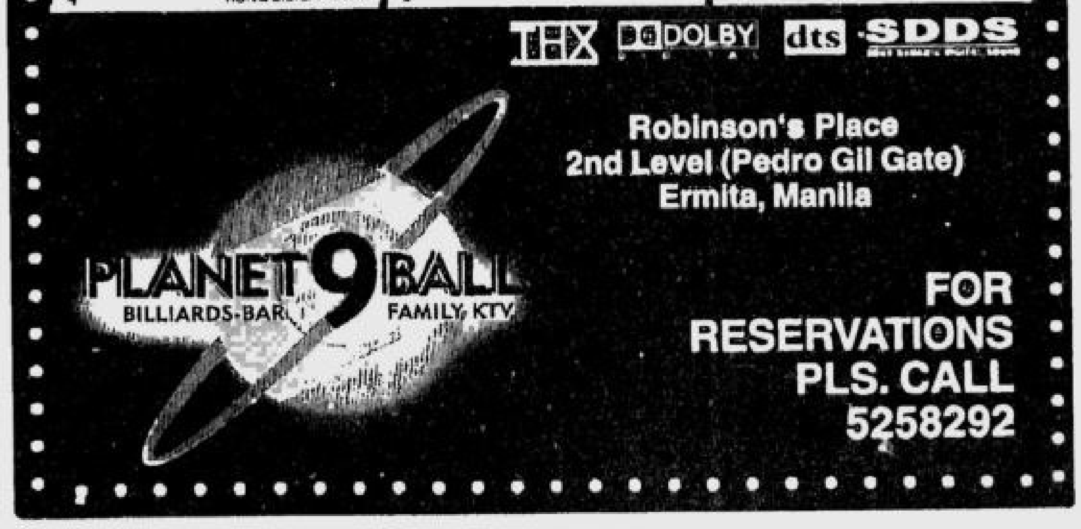
THX DOLBY dts SDDS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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	15 MINUTES
ODEON-2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
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TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	15 MINUTES
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RECESS
CINEMA-2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
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CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
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Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Someone ordered me to deny the baby–Vandolph

DOLLYWOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

AFTER I dropped the bombshell on **Vandolph Quizon**'s lovechild, readers e-mailed me to express their support for the baby and the young mom, **Gia**.

I find it odd that Vandolph himself doesn't show even the slightest concern. He also refuses to sign the birth certificate. Worse, he has the gall to deny that he's the father of 4-month old Gabrielle.

More than being hurt by Vandolph's denial, the Avantes are sad. They, after all, just want Vandolph's signature—not on any check, just on the birth certificate.

"We are not running after Vandolph or his money," said the young mom's dad, **Roland**. "We are just doing what's best for Gabrielle's welfare. I challenge him to subject himself to a paternity test *para matapos na ang gulo*. We intend to sue him and just ask for one peso in damages. Money has nothing to do with this. It's the principle that counts."

I know the Avantes personally as a devout Born-gain Christian family. *Tito* Roland, his brothers and father-in-law are all respected pastors.

In fact, the first time I spoke to *Tita* **Bing**, Gia's mom, she was hesitant about revealing everything. She had to consult church leaders and pray.

The Avantes are not the type to thrive on controversy. They lead a very peaceful life until Vandolph came into the picture.

Vandolph may have his reasons for denying the baby at this point. If he isn't the baby's dad, what on earth was his stepfather **Joey Marquez** doing at the hospital when Gia gave birth? Joey even asked for the baby's picture and promised to convince Vandolph to sign the birth certificate.

Vandolph's nephew, **Boy2 Quizon**, was also present during the baby's "dedication" (that's how we Born-Again Christians call a baptism). I even had a long talk with Boy2 (we were both godparents) and he told me there was no reason not to believe that Vandolph is indeed the "culprit."

Vandolph's dad Dolphy reportedly told a reporter that no Quizon ever turns his back on his responsibilities. The ace comedian is living proof of that.

Earlier this week, Gia's friend called and told me that Gia and Vandolph recently bumped into each other. He apologized for his denial but said he did not have much of a choice because someone ordered him to do so.

Vandolph may be grown up now but in many ways he's still a kid. Is he playing hide 'n' seek or mother-may-I?

Personal. Happy Anniversary to **Chammy** and **DQ**! Je t'aime!

For feedback e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

'Harry Potter' movie trailer premiere schedule

MAGIC happens sooner than you expect as Warner Bros. unveils the teaser trailer of the year's biggest movie event, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on its first-ever theatrical premiere tomorrow night, May 15, 7 to 7:15 p.m. at SM Megamall and at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema, 7:30 to 7:45 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend the free screenings.

Subsequent premieres of the "Harry Potter" trailer will be held on the following days and venues: Sunday, May 20 from 11:45 a.m. to 12 noon at Ali Mall; Wednesday, May 30 at Robinson's Place Manila; and Tuesday, June 5 at SM City Manila, both between 7 to 7:15 p.m

These events are made possible by Magic 89.9 FM, 103.5 K-Lite, CityLite 88.3 FM, the Numeriano C. Perena Foundation and 94.9 Home Radio.

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20	LUCKY NUMBERS - P 13 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:40	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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TV moms go . . .

(From page A32)

long way to go before they could be completely realistic.

They pointed out that, unlike their own families, their TV household featured children who "left the room when they were told to, dress well, and have no chores to do around the house."

They cheerfully, admitted that such nice and tractable creatures didn't exist even in their own household, and hoped for the day when television would finally decide to tell and show it like it is, and depict completely credible mothers and kids in the sitcoms it churns out.

That could first happen on a cable channel, but if it clicked with viewers, the major networks would be compelled to go in that much more realistic direction, too. And that would be all to the good because depicting moms on TV as "picture-imperfect" would lower people's unrealistic expectations of their own mothers, and thus lessen their dissatisfaction.

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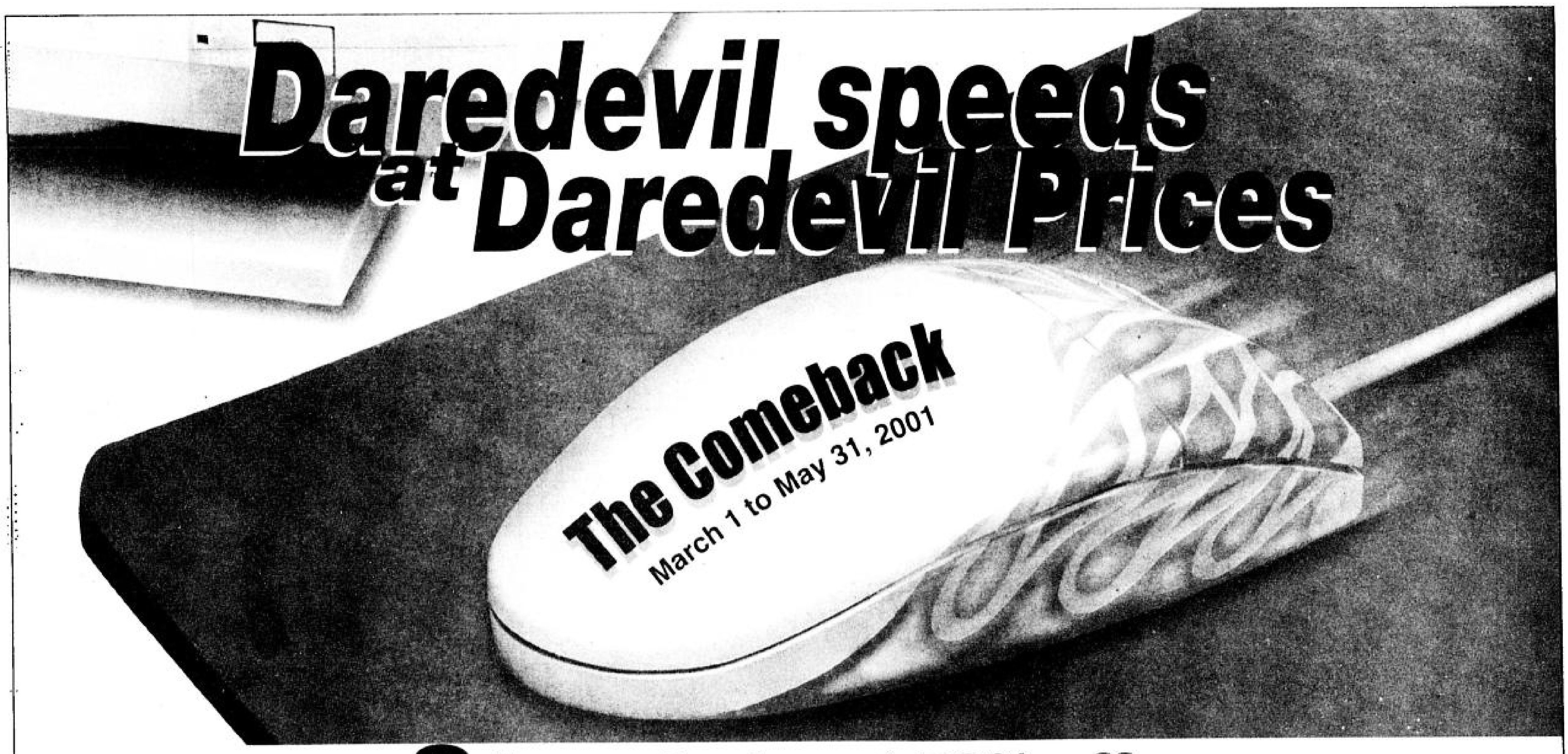

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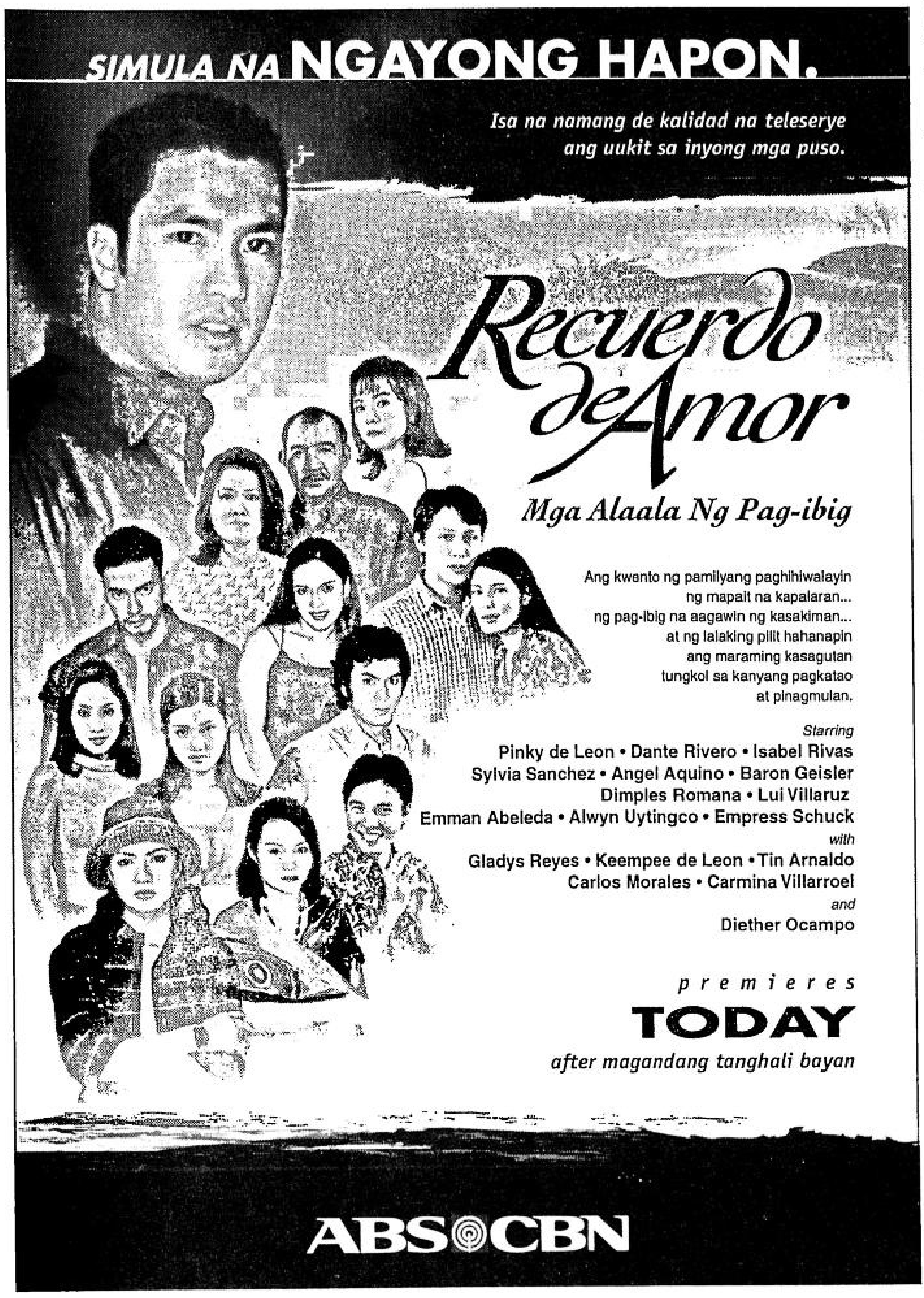

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

TV moms go from fantasy to reality

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE RUN-UP to Mother's Day last Sunday was highlighted on TV by a tribute to TV-sitcom moms on the E! channel, hosted by veteran TV mom **Florence Henderson.**

The special recalled that, in the 1950s and '60s, mothers on TV shows, epitomized by **Donna Reed** and **June Lockhart**, were "picture-perfect."

They looked pert and chic, were beautifully coifed at all times, wore aprons with nary a smudge of dirt on them, were loved by obligingly passive husbands, and adored by their pluperfect kids, who were cutely rambunctious but didn't give their folks any really huge headaches.

Viewers knew that real family life really wasn't that tidy or telegenic, but TV at the time was a medium for escape instead of representation and confrontation, so people didn't really give the disparity much mind.

That was the time when June Lockhart played the mom of the family that had Lassie for its pet. Later, Lockhart was similarly fanciful as another TV mom, this time of the family that found itself "Lost In Space."

The family in "The Brady Bunch," **Florence Henderson** recalled, was also "a victim of the times, and the restrictions imposed on TV."

Then came the Swinging '70s, and the TV mom started to grow up and catch up with reality, with "a lot less apron and a lot more attitude."

Brett Butler of "Grace Under Fire" feels much freer and more natural than the TV mothers of old. "The mom I play is allowed to have a lot more lip than before, and viewers really like it," she observed.

Tina Clifford, who plays the mother in "South Central," is more real than most TV moms. Her American family confronted by problems that really happen to other blacks, including neighborhood crime.

The challenge for Clifford's character is "holding a fatherless family together despite the many problems in modern life." This hasn't really been seen all that much on TV before.

Brett Butler chimed in and described her character in similar terms, as help her solve problems—unlike Roseanne."

She was referring, of course, to **Roseanne Barr** and her and mark TV sitcom in the '80s and '90s, which presented viewers with a mother character who was the veritable antithesis of slim, trim Donna Reed.

As the decidedly more modern mom, Roseanne was fat, unkempt, hectic, ornery, occasionally foul-mouthed—and yet her kids loved her (when they weren't freaking out over her intrusive ways).

More to the point, viewers also delighted in this gloriously imperfect TV mother because she was more real the most, and perhaps reminded them of their own gleefully imperfect mothers.

In yet another family sitcom, **Carol Potter** was similarly forthright, hoping to prove that there was "nothing wrong in being human." Aside from being a mom, her character was also a student, and this gave her another facet that the actress hoped would make other mothers think of continuing their own education.

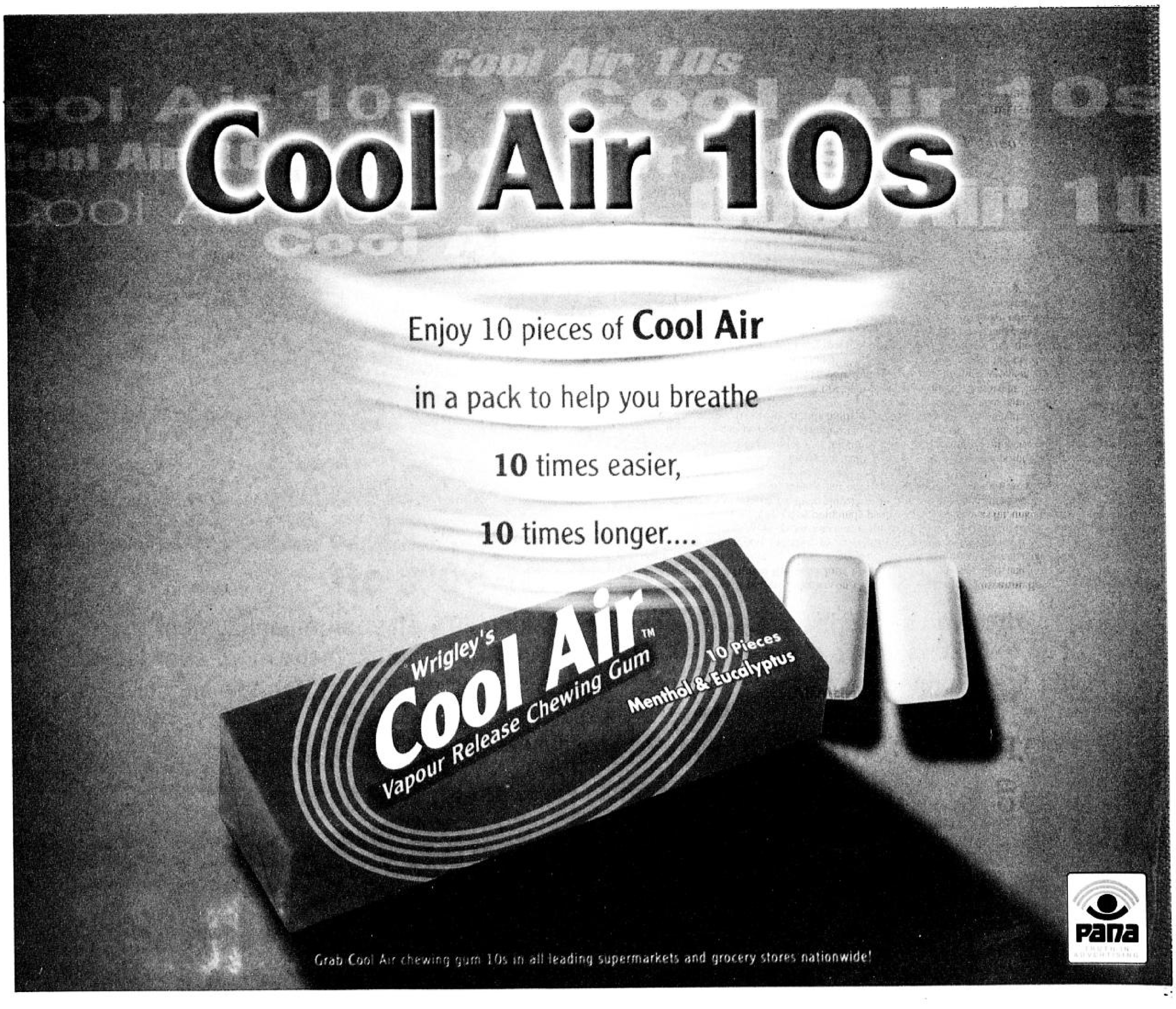
Despite these improvements, the special's guest TV moms agreed that their shows had a

(TV MOMS/ A31)

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino is out town. Her column will be back on Friday.



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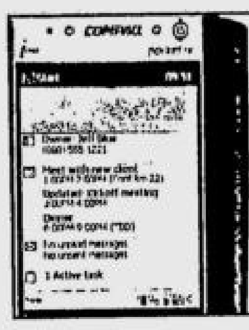
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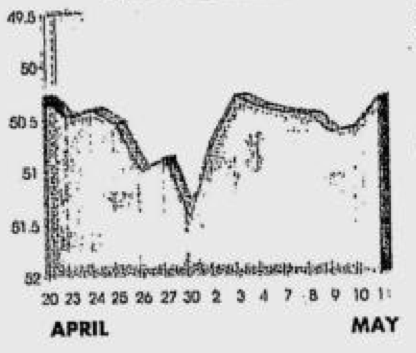
CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

¥122.62 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 122.62 as of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

GOLD:$269.10/269.60

per ounce Hong Kong, May 11, 2001

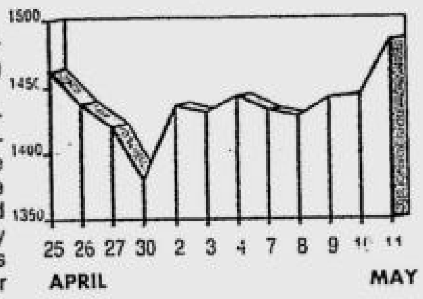
May 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134173	1.000000	50.6240
Japan	Yen	0.009247	0.008153	0.4127
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613020	1.422200	71.9975
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145418	0.128215	6.4908
Switzerland	Franc	0.651000	0.573987	29.0575
Canada	Dollar	0.735187	0.648214	32.8152
Singapore	Dollar	0.624545	0.550661	27.8767
Australia	Dollar	0.594648	0.524301	26.5422
Bahrain	Dinar	3.008575	2.652661	134.2883
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302438	0.266660	13.4994
Brunei	Dollar	0.620445	0.547046	27.6937
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024948	0.021997	1.1136
UAE	Dirham	0.308828	0.272294	13.7846
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000766	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881700	44.6352
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450806	22.8216
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134414	6.8046
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.400098	20.2546
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064076	3.2438
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148291	7.5071
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004398	0.2226
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005299	0.2683
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.119528	56.6750

STOCK MARKET

Bearish trade seen

PSE Composite Index



DESPITE a strong rally on Friday, the bears are seen ruling the market this week.

Analysts said most investors would await for opportunities to perk up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index beyond 1,500, and would specifically look at the outcome of today's national and local elections for guidance.

Another key factor would be an expected cut in the key rates of the US Federal Reserve on May 15.

A worsening employment picture would prod the Federal Reserve to cut US interest rates by another half percentage point this week despite some encouraging news on consumer spending, according to most US economists.

The Phisix closed on Friday, the last trading day before the elections, at 1,484.83, the highest level since the Supreme Court upheld the legality of former Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption to the presidency. *(See story and stock quotations on Page B4.)*

Gov't to cut borrowings

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to reduce by P1.5 billion weekly or by as much as P12 billion the level of its borrowings from the local market in August and September.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the national government could afford to reduce the level of its domestic borrowings if they would adhere to a financing program that had been mapped out until July.

The government borrows P7 billion a week from the private sector, of which P4 billion comes from the issuance of treasury bills and P3 billion from treasury bonds.

Edeza noted that much of the government's requirements had been front-loaded or had been borrowed in advance while interest rates were more favorable.

The national treasurer said the government has included in the financing program until July a $100-million to $200-million private placement with Chase Manhattan Bank within the month and a $500-million bond issue in July.

Edeza stressed that the market need not worry that the government would unduly burden the local market with its borrowings because there was always an option to tap the overseas market.

He admitted the government has raised its borrowing program this year to P191 billion from an earlier amount of P180 billion.

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS
May 11, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/					
11 May 2001					
Overnight R/P	11.7500	11.7500	11.7500	O.H.	12.2500
Term R/P	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	O.H.	N.Q.
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.)					
10 May 2001					
Weighted Ave.	9.5625	9.5938	9.6563	O.H.	9.1875
High	9.6250	9.8125	10.0000	O.H.	10.7500
Low	9.5000	9.5625	9.5000	O.H.	9.0000
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/					
11 May 2001					
60 Days	N.T.	N.T.	10.2500	O.H.	9.0000
90 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	O.H.	N.T.
180 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	O.H.	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	4.0600	4.0900	4.3000	4.7400	6.7200
90-day SIBOR	4.0600	4.0700	4.3100	4.7300	6.7200
180-day LIBOR	4.0300	4.0400	4.2500	4.5200	6.9200
180-day SIBOR	4.0400	4.0500	4.2800	4.5300	6.9300

1. Starting Oct. 30, 1987, Bangko Sentral R/P rates refer to the weighted average interest rate (WAIR) of transacted rates.
2. Of 10 sample commercial banks
N.Q.—No Quotation; N.T.—No Transaction; O.H.—Official Holiday

Reform hurdles await gov't after elections

By Clarissa S. Batino

A CONVINCING victory by the government-backed candidates in today's elections is deemed crucial to assure foreign markets and investors that the Macapagal administration will achieve economic progress and eventually get a better rating for itself.

This was the assessment of investment bank ING Barings, which specified five critical factors "necessary before a re-rating can take place."

Aside from the administration's victory in the Congress, ING Barings said it wanted to see a diminishing threat that former President Estrada and his supporters can still grab power, a continuity in reforms, for the budget deficit to be in line with targets, and a recovery in the US and Japanese economies.

Many analysts said the elections today may be the first acid test for President Macapagal-Arroyo but they are divided whether a strong government showing will ensure the success of her economic reform plans.

"While the business community would see a major pro-administration win as a positive signal, whether such an outcome will necessarily translate into reforms that will lift the economy out of its current malaise is a big question mark," said Abacus Securities economist Emilio Neri.

"It is still a waiting game but unlike the previous times when the market was awaiting positive developments, investors are now waiting for a re-rating," ING Barings said in its latest report on the Philippines.

The investment bank said that while Estrada supporters still posed uncertainties in the short-term as shown by the May 1 attack on Malacañang, "we think the ruckus will eventually die down as support for the former President declines."

Foreign markets are counting on the long-delayed enactment of the power bill, which would be perceived as a serious gesture of the administration in pursuing reforms.

ING Barings said the fiscal performance had been satisfactory since the deficit had been below target for the first quarter, hitting only P37.9 billion versus a target of P48.55 billion.

The trend appears to continue in April although revenue collection, specially of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, continued to falter in April with shortfall hitting more than P9 billion in the first four months of the year.

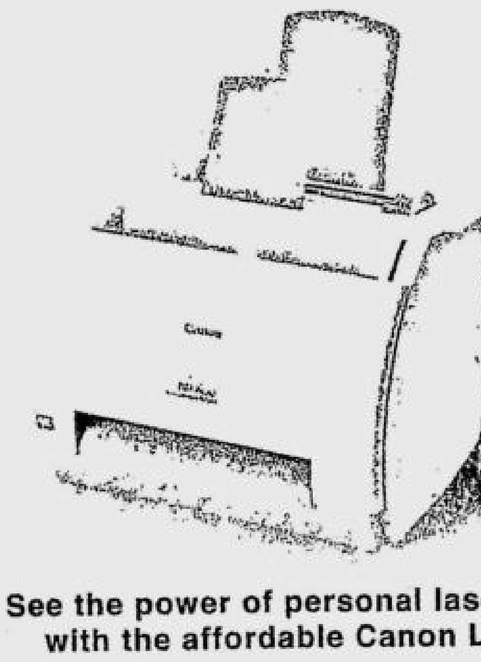
"It has been the government's prudent spending that has offset revenue shortfall and kept the deficit low. This has to be rectified because if collections do not improve, important expenditure items in the budget will be jeopardized," ING Barings said.

While a re-rating is on the mind of most investors, the rating agencies appear to be waiting for more signals other than a diminishing threat from supporters of the former President.

Moody's Investor Services, in fact, correctly interpreted the "re-emergence" of political uncertainties in the horizon as a factor in retaining its negative outlook for the Philippines.

A few days after the Moody's report, the arrest of Estrada led his supporters to mass in Edsa and a attack Malacañang a week later.

REFORM/ B5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BSP seen to approve shelving of Equitable capital build-up

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is amenable to the plan of the Equitable PCIBank management to shelve the planned P10-billion capital build-up program.

However, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said Equitable PCIBank should first prove that it has started getting back the deposits that were withdrawn at the height of the impeachment trial of former President Estrada.

Reyes said the BSP was awaiting the final decision of new Equitable PCI president Deogracias Vistan on the final measure that the bank will take to restore its financial health.

Vistan said on Thursday that the capital build-up program has been put on hold as Equitable PCI decided instead to focus on regaining the deposits it had lost.

"If the deposits are really coming back, as they are saying, a capital increase will no longer be necessary. However, we will see if the liquidity aspect can really be addressed even without the capital build-up," said Reyes.

The BSP official said Equitable PCI had planned to pursue a P5 to P10 billion capital build-up program in the second quarter because the decline in its deposit accounts had affected the bank's profitability.

Reyes did not say how Equitable PCI's remaining obligations with the BSP would be affected if the bank would junk the planned capital build-up program. The bank, he said, had planned to settle part of its remaining obligations with the BSP with the money to be raised through the capital build-up program.

The country's third largest lender was forced to borrow as much as P30 billion from the BSP's reverse repurchase and emergency facilities to finance heavy withdrawals in October when the bank was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal that involved Estrada.

Of the amount, Vistan said, P11 billion has already been paid as of April.

The bank had asked the BSP to restructure the remaining portion of its loan over a five-year period. The central bank said it would agree to restructure the loan only if Equitable PCI would pursue a capital build-up program.

PHILIPPINE, THAILAND BUSINESS LEADERS MEET

Leaders of the Philippine-Thailand Business Council met recently with their counterparts from the Thailand-Philippine Business Council. The meeting served as a venue to firm up the councils' plans for the year in line with efforts to promote trade and investment between the Philippines and Thailand. Participants to the meeting are Cesar V. Purisima, RP-Thailand Business Council co-chair; Rizalino S. Navarro, RP special envoy to the Asean, Australia and New Zealand; Dr. Viphandh Roengpityah, Thailand-RP Business Council chair, and Romeo Manalo, Philippine Embassy Charges D'Affairs in Thailand; (standing from left) Yong Areecharoenlert, Dr. Daniel Zuellig, Maris Samaram and Thavach Phusitphoykai.

Power firm seeks adviser for $300-M loan facility

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is looking for a financial adviser for a $300-million loan it plans to borrow this year.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo told reporters on Friday a number of financial giants were interested in helping Napocor secure this loan. These included Lehman Brothers, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Citibank NA, ABN Amro, HSBC Corp., Deutsche Bank AG, Credit Suisse First Boston, and ING Barings.

Alcordo said part of the $300 million would be used to retire a $144-million loan Napocor got from ING Barings set to mature in November this year. The rest would be used to the "general financing" of the cash-strapped power firm.

He earlier said Napocor would have to borrow new money to retire P42 billion worth of debts set to mature in November.

Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, said Napocor did not have to borrow all P42 billion this year because there were money flowing into Napocor out of the power firm's operations.

Alcordo and Camacho agreed that Napocor would borrow only $300 million (P15.5 billion) this year to cover debts set to mature in August. The power firm would have to generate cash out of its own operations to pay off the rest of its P42-billion debt.

Camacho stressed that Napocor would have to secure government guarantees for its financing plans this year.

"What we need in Napocor are the sovereign guarantees because it would be difficult to borrow on our own given our financial condition," he said.

As of end-December last year, Napocor owed over P900 billion to various creditors.

"I have spoken to (Finance) Secretary (Alberto) Romulo about this, and he supports our financing plans," Camacho told reporters.

He said borrowing for Napocor instead of guaranteeing its loans was always an option for the Department of Finance, but that finance officials seemed to be inclined to just provide the guarantees.

Asked how the $300-million loan would be financed, he said this would depend on the proposals of Napocor's financial adviser.

"It could be a bond float or a loan facility. We still don't have a specific formula because it would depend on what would be feasible at a given time and market condition," Camacho said.

He said recent trends in government and private financing pointed to a syndicated loan as the way to go.

"When you have a deteriorated market, it would normally be the syndicate loan market that would start before you go into public securities," he said.

"It depends when we are ready to go into market and what the most appropriate instrument would be at the time," he added.

An appropriate slice of the pie

(First of two parts)

MINDANAO ONE

Elisa Mutia Buctuanon
and Fermin D. Adriano

THE NATIONAL government envisages Mindanao as the country's "food basket," the key to attaining food security for the nation.

Is Mindanao up to this? Mindanaoans say yes, it is—but they are quick to add, only if the region gets the appropriate budget support to build up necessary infrastructure.

For Mindanao stakeholders, an appropriate budget share means a 31 to 34 percent allocation for the island-region from the national budget intended for infrastructure.

Not everyone agrees. The policy of developing Mindanao as the country's food basket has been disputed by some Luzon-based politicians, who cite the following as reasons: Mindanao is not the center of the country's population; it is cheaper to import food than to source it from Mindanao; and the peace and order situation has not yet been resolved.

Let us examine the facts, then.

Vast agricultural areas

Mindanao is indeed less populated than Luzon and the Visayas, which is why it still has vast tracks of agricultural land available for production expansion. The strategic agriculture and fisheries development zones (SAFDZs) of Mindanao cover an area of 2.96 million hectares, of which 2.7 million hectares are suited for crop production and the remaining for livestock and fish production.

Already, Mindanao supplies 44 percent of the country's food, but it still has tremendous agricultural development potential. Rich as it is in people, Mindanao is richer in crops, livestock, trees, and other natural resources. Unlike Luzon and the Visayas, Mindanao is almost entirely typhoon-free.

If the present administration is determined to modernize the agriculture sector in order to promote economic growth and development in the rural areas, then Mindanao is the most strategic region on which to focus its efforts. It is the country's best bet for attaining higher agriculture growth rates, owing to its comparative advantages.

Money-earner

Despite limited support from government, Mindanao's value-added contribution to the Philippines' agriculture and fisheries sectors averaged at 34 percent for the past decade. On a per hectare basis, the island-economy's gross value-added in agriculture, fishery and forestry from 1990 to 1998 averaged at P14,451 per hectare, higher than that of Luzon's P12,408 per hectare and the Visayas' P9,191 per hectare (Yorobe, 2000).

Most of the top Philippine agricultural commodities earning much-needed foreign exchange (such as banana, pineapple, asparagus, and cut-flowers) are grown in Mindanao, occupying, at most, only 200,000 hectares of land—thanks to the high productivity of the region's farm areas and the productive capability of its people.

Net exporter of basic commodities

The island region continues to be a net exporter of basic agricultural commodities like corn, fruits and vegetables (**See table below.**) despite the Asian financial crisis and the long drought that hit the country in 1997.

In 1998 and 1999, an average of 2.9 million metric tons of these commodities being shipped out of the three major ports in Mindanao went to major domestic and international markets. In contrast, a mere 329,000 metric tons of these commodities were brought into the island-economy.

Major hurdle: poor infrastructure

- **Inadequate port facilities.** While it is true that it currently costs more for Manila-based industries to source raw materials (such as corn) from Mindanao than from, say, Thailand, the basic problem appears to be inefficiency in the island's shipping and transport systems rather than the cost of production per se.

The high cost of shipping by sea has been traced to inefficiency in port operations, due mainly to inadequate port infrastructure and ancillary facilities and services. Many of the ports in the island-region are highly congested, and most lack gantry cranes, fork lifts, prime movers and storage facilities. This delays the cargo handling process and prolongs the turnaround time of vessels.

In other words, Mindanao has the food—but can't ship it to the market efficiently.

If port facilities were improved, resulting in faster and more efficient throughput and vessel utilization, shipping costs would be greatly reduced.

- **Deficient road systems.** Compounding the problem is the poor state of road networks in the island-region, the result of decades of limited government investment in Mindanao infrastructure.

Take Mindanao's national roads, which lead to seaports and airports, and link major production areas to markets and consumption centers. As of 1999, Mindanao's national road density was the lowest among the three major regions at 0.07 km per sq. km, compared to Luzon's 0.17 km per sq. km and the Visayas' 0.13 km per sq. km.

In terms of road quality (the ratio of paved roads to total road length), Mindanao's paved roads come in lowest at 48 percent, while Luzon and the Visayas have the advantage at 61 percent and 62 percent, respectively. Within Mindanao, the less developed regions have the lowest road quality (32 percent for ARMM, 41 percent for Caraga, 46 percent for Region 9, and 49 percent for Region 12).

Even worse is the local road network (provincial, city, municipal and barangay roads), which constitutes 89 percent of the total road system. Of Mindanao's 62,000 kilometers of local roads, only 7 percent is paved. Luzon and the Visayas have 21 percent and 11 percent of their local roads paved, respectively.

What we find disconcerting is that, correlating the pavement ratio of rural roads with grain outputs in specific areas, there actually appears to be a distinct bias against road development in vital agricultural centers.

Region 12 and Region 11of Mindanao, the third and fifth highest grain producers in the country, register extremely low pavement ratios, amounting to less than 12 percent.

The poor state of transport infrastructure has serious implications for the competitiveness of Mindanao's products, since the quality of roads and seaports directly influences the cost of transport and the efficiency with which goods are delivered. *(To be continued)*

Average volume of basic commodities (rice, corn, fruits and vegetables) in selected major ports in Mindanao, 1998-99.

Ports	Inbound (metric tons)	Outbound (metric tons)
Davao	90,940	1,699,241
Gen. Santos	86,699	628,326
Cagayan de Oro	151,617	596,660
Total	329,256	2,924,227
% Share	10.1	89.9

Source of Basic Data: PPA-Port Management Offices of Davao, General Santos, & Cagayan de Oro

(Elisa Mutia Buctuanon is a policy researcher at the Mindanao Business Council. Fermin D. Adriano. PhD, is a consultant to the Presidential Adviser on Regional Concerns.)

GOINGS-ON

Heinz in RP

GLOBAL food giant HJ Heinz Co. has entered the Philippine market with its world-famous Heinz Tomato Ketchup.

The move to expand into the Philippines involves a joint venture with NutriAsia, maker of the country's leading ketchup brands.

The joint venture, which has given birth to Heinz-UFC Philippines, provides HJ Heinz Co. with a dominant local partner and a strong foothold in the Philippine market.

At the same time, Heinz widens UFC's brand portfolio and completes its brand presence in all segments of the ketchup market. Locally, ketchup is the third most consumed condiment, next only to soy sauce and vinegar.

Franchising event

PHILIPPINE Franchise Association (PFA) vice chair Alegria Limjoco announces the holding of Franchise Asia 2001 in Manila on Sept. 12-16. A must-see for franchise enthusiasts, the event will include two top level international franchise council meetings—the World Franchise council (WFC) and the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC), and a franchise conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and the biggest exposition of franchise companies and products at the World Trade Center.

For more information about Franchise Asia 2001, call the PFA secretariat at 31-49/50 or WorldExco at 834-24-04 or visit www.franchiseasia2001.com/222.philfranchise.com.

UPS in Clark

THE TOP management team of United Parcel Service (UPS) recently paid a courtesy call to Customs Commissioner Titus B. Villanueva to convey the company's plan to establish its Asian air hub at the Sub Port of Clark.

M. James Goh, UPS vice president for customs operations in the Asia Pacific, said that UPS selected Clark as the site of their Asian air hub because of the "excellent operational facilities available and the opportunities for future development."

Villanueva welcomed UPS' move saying it will definitely help improve the economy of the country. He said, "Clark being a free port zone insures an unimpeded smooth flow of international transshipment cargo. With this development the Bureau of Customs is committed to provide quality service to UPS air hub operations."

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 20 losers at PSE

(1st quarter 2001, in pesos)

	STOCKS	PRICE Jan	PRICE Mar	% Change
1	Reynolds Phils. Corp.	0.330	0.140	57.6
2	Metro Alliance Holdings	1.620	0.700	56.8
3	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.400	0.200	50.0
4	Pryce Corp.	0.600	0.310	48.3
5	Fil-estate Corp.	1.500	0.780	48.0
6	Unioil Resources & Holdings	0.150	0.080	46.7
7	Phil Estates Corp.	0.135	0.072	46.3
8	Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.570	0.330	42.1
9	Sanitary Wares Manufacturing Corp.	0.500	0.300	40.0
10	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.480	0.290	39.6
11	Multitech Investments Corp.	0.510	0.320	37.2
12	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	1.080	0.680	37.0
13	Belle Corp.	0.600	0.390	35.0
14	Sun Life Financial Services	1,330.000	885.000	33.5
15	South China Resources Inc.	0.300	0.200	33.3
16	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	2.900	2.000	31.0
17	Metro Alliance Holdings Corp.	1.000	0.700	30.0
18	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	1.700	1.200	29.4
19	Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.750	0.530	29.3
20	Philtread Tire & Rubber Corp. "B"	5.600	4.000	28.6

Source: Technistock

Aside from topping the losers' list, Reynolds Philippines' share price as of end-March was down by 86.3 percent compared to its price of P1.02 last year. For this year's first quarter losers, only two stocks were also in last year's list. These were Fil-Estate Corp. (9) and Multitech Investments Corp. (2).

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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What: ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING
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Where: Meralco Theater
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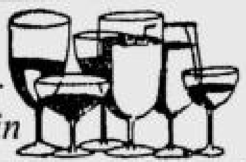
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Equitable's new equanimity



By Victor C. Agustin

IN a refreshing change of tack, Equitable PCIBank's management abandoned its hide-and-no-comment stance with the nosey business press and even treated the riff-raffs to dinner at Prince Albert Friday night.

The steaks and drinks have apparently only heightened the sharpness of questions thrown at new chair Antonio Go, who squirmed at his seat as he successfully fended off sensitive questions with nervous laughters and I-don't-know-the-details line.

Beside him sat Yen Makabenta, who has made quite a career straddling the PR and column-writing worlds simultaneously, and Anthony Conway, an Irish-American colleague of Go at the Equitable Card-Network who is also now a bank director.

Despite his slight frame, Antonio, who at 61 is the second youngest of seven brothers and one sister (George of the Jose Velarde fame is the youngest), was unequivocal about and unwavering on Equitable PCIBank's short-term focus.

This he spelled out as paying back some P30 billion in emergency facility that the bank availed itself from the Bangko Sentral, winning back an even greater amount of deposits that evaporated when it became known that the country's third-largest bank had become the private laundry machine of you-know-who, and intensifying the bank's relations with the SMEs, its traditional market.

With the Jose Velarde brouhaha and the boardroom squabble hopefully now resolved, Go said he would take time to visit the 500 or so branches—he does not play golf and quite proud to say that he does not—after Deogracias Vistan shall have been installed president come June 1.

Go was "transparent" to use his favorite word, about the existence of two clashing cultures within the bank as a result of Equitable acquiring the much-larger PCIBank two years ago.

Earlier, Vistan, a former Citibanker, met with the top Equitable PCIBank officers to stress that performance, not cliquism, would be his yardstick in rating them.

Despite the initial misgivings of GSIS Chair Winston Garcia on his appointment, Vistan is being given a free-hand to manage the day-to-day operations of the bank as well as to recruit a management team to fulfill his marching orders, which are, in Go's words, "to be profitable"(of course!) and "to be the best bank ... to service the customers the best way we can."

Asked about the whereabouts of and what's keeping his more famous brother busy, Go shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know." The last time he has spoken to and seen George, he said, was Chinese New Year past.

Go said his family would have "no problem"—"control is not that important"—should the SSS and GSIS eventually sell out their shareholdings, which at 35 is 5 percent bigger than the Gos, to other parties. But even if they would want to, the Gos have no significant assets outside of Equitable PCIBank.

Outside of the board, only one Go, nephew Jonathan, is working for the bank, in charge of purchasing, with a newly minted title of senior vice president. Antonio's only child and daughter, a management consultant based in New York, does not want to return to the Philippines, Go said.

This led to the inevitable question: Does he see the possibility of the Gos eventually becoming passive shareholders of the bank?

"If we do a lousy job!" came his quick reply, before breaking out into a guffaw.

Good news for a change

DESPITE the madness at Edsa III and the even greater madness in Mendiola, the Philippines has been getting good international press from some unexpected quarters.

Esquire, for instance, has quite a spread in this month's issue, in time for the Hollywood-induced Pearl Harbor nostalgia in America, on "the most dramatic secret raid of World War II," chronicling the combined Filipino and American commando rescue mission of some 500 US prisoners of war held in a Japanese camp in Cabanatuan in 1945.

The Esquire article is actually an excerpt of a new book, Ghost Soldiers, to be published by Doubleday tomorrow.

Also, Northwest Airlines' inflight magazine for May featured a travel and photo essay on Palawan's unspoiled beaches.

Even the Love Bug suspect was paid a grudging admiration by the Chicago Tribune, featuring the Samar lad sympathetically in its technology page.

Heard through the grapevine

OUTGOING La Union Gov. Justo Orros has been prevailed upon by former Speaker Jose de Venecia to accept the ambassadorship of either Mexico or Venezuela.

Orros, who was educated in Madrid, had originally had his heart set for Spain, a post that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had agreed to reserve for him in exchange for some political concessions.

De Venecia phoned Orros after being informed that the Makati mestiziosis were strongly lobbying for the same Madrid posting in favor of businessman Joseph Deleanor "Lani" Bernardo, a University of Navarra graduate and a summa cum laude from the Castilaloy favorite La Salle.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

RP mission to woo European investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is embarking on a 13-day, 7-city European investment mission next week to drumbeat the investment opportunities in information technology in the Philippines.

Board of Investments managing head Vincent Perez Jr. said he hoped that the IT mission in Europe would sustain the momentum of rising foreign investor interest in the country generated from the previous IT missions in the United States and Japan made early this year.

In the third leg of the government's global IT investment promotion program, a team led by Perez and Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II will go to Stockholm, Helsinki, Rotterdam, London, Berlin, Munich and Zurich from May 19 to 31 this year.

The government would highlight the Filipino IT professionals' proficiency in the English language and all computer hardware as well as the low costs of tapping the Philippines for outsourcing their IT requirements.

Perez said the mission aims to promote the country's expertise and capabilities in e-services, IT-enabled services, mobile application, and software development; explore or forge strategic alliances with European investors in these areas, and get updates on the future of IT.

The government is also planning to sign a memorandum of understanding between the BOI and the Swiss Organization Facilitating Investments, an agency tasked to encourage and facilitate Swiss investments in developing and transition countries.

Swiss IT companies are currently seeking alternative means to maximize their opportunities by outsourcing or subcontracting work to foreign service suppliers such as what American multinational corporations have made in the Philippines in the past few years.

RP/ B4

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?

... that the first tramway service in the Philippines, *Compañía de los Tranvías de Filipinas,* was able to convert its horse-drawn tramway lines to a steam-operated street railway system with funds provided by *El Banco Español Filipino* in 1887?

... that these trams served the commuting public starting in 1888?

... that the steam-powered tramway lines were later replaced by an electric railway system run by the Manila Electric Rail and Light Company (MERALCO) in 1905?

... that in 1886, the colonial government in the Philippines decided to phase out all Mexican money in circulation in the islands because they had lower value compared to the coins minted in Manila?

that Spain extended the application of her Code of Commerce to the Philippines in 1888, making it the first legislation to deal directly with Philippine banking?

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of DECEMBER 31, 2000

ASSETS		
Cash	P	51,489,256
Investments in Trust Funds		302,046,830
Installment Contract Receivable		3,618,893,317
Other Receivables		46,070,916
Prepaid Expenses		2,095,337
Property and Equipment (net)		1,027,496,934
Deferred Charges		104,306,642
Other Assets		48,398,301
TOTAL ASSETS	P	5,200,797,533
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	P	41,952,316
Income Tax Payable		969,619
Estimated Benefit Provision in Installment Contract Receivable		1,447,557,327
Unrealized Gross Income in Installment Contract Receivable		2,171,335,990
Actuarial Reserve Liability		315,165,398
Long-term Debts		162,589,805
Bond Reserve and Other Liabilities		61,417,898
Total		4,200,988,353
Stockholders' Equity		
Capital stock		
Authorized capital stock - 1 billion shares with par value of P1.00 per share - P1,000,000,000		
Subscribed and paid - 620,000,000 shares		620,000,000
Paid-in surplus		2,000,000
Revaluation increment in land and buildings		311,826,477
Retained earnings		65,982,703
Total Stockholders' Equity		999,809,180
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	5,200,797,533

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF PASIG

We, ERNESTO L. SALAS and ARCATOMY S. GUARIN of the above-mentioned pre-need Company certify that the above statement of condition was audited by an independent external auditor Diaz, Murillo, Dalupan, CPA's.

Ernesto L. Salas
ERNESTO L. SALAS
President

ARCATOMY S. GUARIN
Senior Vice President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this May 11, 2001 at Pasig, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 08188326 and No. 08188334 both issued on February 21, 2001 at Pasig City respectively.

Doc. No. 167
Page No. 38
Book No. II
Series of 2001

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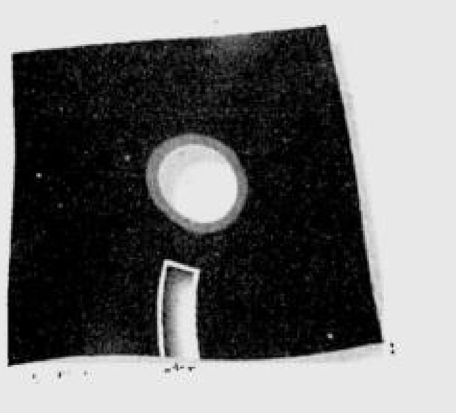

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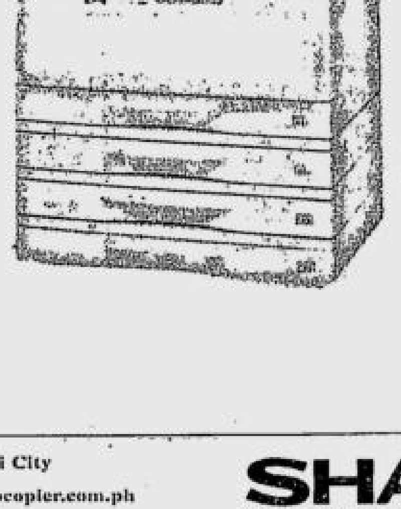

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Stock market to take its cue from elections, US rates cut

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

DESPITE a strong rally on Friday, the bears are seen ruling the market this week.

Analysts said most investors would await for opportunities to perk up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index beyond 1,500, and would specifically look at the outcome of today's national and local elections for guidance.

Another key factor would be an expected cut in the key rates of the US Federal Reserve on May 15.

A worsening employment picture would prod the Federal Reserve to cut US interest rates by another half percentage point this week despite some encouraging news on consumer spending, according to most US economists.

The employment report convinced all but one of the 25 primary dealers of US government securities—firms that trade directly with the Fed in money markets—that the central bank on Tuesday would cut the overnight bank lending, or federal funds, rate to 4 percent from 4.5 percent. One firm predicted a quarter-point cut. Most expect another reduction in June.

"Potential rallies above 1,500 might be expected in case investors see indications of an orderly, peaceful and a majority win for President Macapagal-Arroyo's political slate. This might be assisted by succeeding events, such as the US Fed's expected bias to lower benchmark interest rates by another 50 basis points on May 15," according to Internet financial firm 2tradeasia.com,

The Phisix closed on Friday, the last trading day before the elections, at 1,484.83, the highest level since the Supreme Court upheld the legality of former Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption to the presidency.

2tradeasia.com said if the peso remains stable until the proclamation of the winners in the elections, the index would likely benefit from increased trades in light of better prospects in the second half of the year.

"Meanwhile, expect some bouts of healthy profit-taking as market indices approach 1,500, especially if other catalysts dry up. Overall, heed for weaknesses in positioning for attractive bets in the stock market. Immediate support is at 1,450 and resistance at 1,500," it said.

As the rally during the last two trading days was broad-based and supported by strong value turnover, the consensus was that follow-through buying would offset profit-taking to continue such uptrend this week.

"A peaceful elections would help the market test the 1,500 resistance. However, if there is a failure of elections on Monday, a reversal of the current sentiment may occur. The market is expected to be volatile as investors await the final and official tally from the Commission on Elections. Meanwhile, investors will be dependent on unofficial quick counts. After the elections, investors will now focus on the economic and reform agenda of the government," BPI Securities Corp. technical analyst Roberto Cano said.

Cano said the Phisix had broken out of the rectangular consolidation pattern at 1,463 to close at 1,484.83 on Friday, also noting that it was a positive sign that the main index was now above both the 10-, 30- and 200-day moving averages.

Should the market break the 1,500 resistance, Cano said the next targets would be 1,550 to 1,570.

Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman said the strong performance on Friday indicated that the index would reach 1,550 or even close above 1,600.

"We are now bullish for the short- to medium-term, but still bearish for the longer term. We are also confirming that we have withdrawn from our previous aggressively bearish long-term view to a more neutral long-term view, with a downward bias. Following our new model, we are still seeing a corrective rally with a limited objective, to be followed by a 100-percent, or even greater, retracement of whatever will be the extent of this advance," Villaroman said.

Wall Street sees big US Fed rates cut

NEW YORK—A worsening employment picture would prod the Federal Reserve to cut US interest rates by another half percentage point this week despite some encouraging news on consumer spending, economists predicted in the latest Reuters poll on Friday.

The poll was conducted shortly after the release of April retail sales data and a survey of consumer sentiment for May that were both better than markets had expected. After the release of the data, one central banker said he saw signs the economy was stabilizing.

But those numbers did little to sweeten the bitter aftertaste of last week's employment report, which showed US payrolls shed nearly a quarter million jobs in April.

The employment report convinced all but one of the 25 primary dealers of US government securities—firms that trade directly with the Fed in money markets—that the central bank on Tuesday would cut the overnight bank lending, or federal funds, rate to 4 percent from 4.5 percent. One firm predicted a quarter-point cut. Most expect another reduction in June.

"The Fed has seen a lot of encouraging signs in the jobless claims and today's retail sales, but there still must be some nervousness about the layoffs issue," said Steve Gallagher, an economist at SG Cowen Securities. Cowen forecasts a half-point rate cut next week but no more after that. *Reuters*

A voter's life story

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IT has been my good fortune that I have voted in every election and referendum since after World War II. How 55 years have flown.

In my regular medical check-up two months ago, my doctor found me, in his own words, boringly normal. I guess I have a few more elections left in me.

I was 20 years old and a senior at the Ateneo de Naga high school when I cast my first ballot in the presidential elections of 1946. President Sergio Osmeña Sr. was running under the Nacionalista banner. His opponent was Manuel Roxas, who had broken off from Osmeña to set up the Nacionalista Party-Liberal Wing, which later was called simply the Liberal Party.

At an evening rally at the plaza in Naga, I was totally awestruck by Roxas, a brilliant public speaker. In a stirring speech in English and Filipino, he drew his vision of an industrialized Philippines. Right there and then, he got my vote. And I also decided to take part in that dream. I made up my mind to become a mechanical engineer.

My parents were disappointed with my decision. My mother had long prayed that I should enter priesthood. My father had hoped that I would follow his footsteps and take up law. But they accepted my decision without question, for which I shall be eternally grateful.

While studying at the National University in Manila, I voted in Sampaloc in 1950. After graduation, I wound up working for the FGU Insurance Group. My insurance career brought me to work in the provinces. I voted in Cebu and Davao (after duly registering, of course). From 1960 on, I have voted in Makati, where I will vote today.

No matter where I was, I never had any problem casting my vote. I cannot help wondering why so many voters seem to have problems finding their voting center, let alone their names in the voter's list.

In the beginning, the voter's choice was simple: You either voted Nacionalista or Liberal. Later, the choice became harder and harder. Party lines became blurred as the Nacionalista Party picked up a "guest candidate" from the Liberal Party, and vice versa. From day to day, you never knew who is for whom. Every politician seems to be a turncoat.

Today, the Nacionalista and Liberal parties are no longer the dominant parties they used to be. New parties and coalition of parties have appeared. Voters can hardly keep up.

The advertising industry is now designing political campaigns. That is the reason for all those posters hanging on every other tree along the highway and pasted on all available wall space. This is why you see those streamers and billboards at every vantage point in the cities. This is why you get pestered with all those silly jingles on TV and radio. Candidates are being sold to the electorate like bars of soap or tubes of toothpaste. Name recall works in selling mass-produced items, but I doubt if it is of much help to the voter when he fills out his ballot.

Until the 1986 People Power revolution, I voted because I felt it was my duty. I chose the candidates whom I thought were the best for the positions they were running. Beyond that, I was not political. I was never involved in a political campaign except to give my modest contribution to the campaign fund of my brother, Eusebio, when he ran for and won a seat in the Naga City council. I was the typical independent voter, tied to no party, and choosing candidates as I saw fit.

One day in 1987, I had lunch with my town mate and childhood friend, the late Ramon Diaz, then the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. It was Ramoning who persuaded me that my duty was not only to vote, but also to get involved in the electoral process. That was when I joined, albeit in the fringes only, Namfrel and then later the PPCRV.

Jollibee gets ₱850M for commissary

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has secured an P850-million loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for its P1.2-billion commissary.

Jollibee vice president for finance Miguel Jose Navarrete told investors on Friday that the new loan would carry a fixed coupon rate of around 11 percent for five years.

BPI Securities Corp. analyst Spencer Yap said the new loan would not be a drag on Jollibee's bottom line, but "we are likely to downgrade our earnings' estimate to take into account the additional interest expense."

Navarrete said the P850-million loan was meant to supplement internally generated funds earmarked for a P1.2-billion manufacturing and distribution center that Jollibee was building in Camelray I in Canlubang, Laguna.

The commissary will be the third for the flagship Jollibee brand and fifth for the entire Jollibee group, which includes Chowking Food Corp., Greenwich Pizza Corp. and Delifrance Asia Ltd.

Jollibee, the country's biggest fast-food chain, chalked up a net profit of P217 million in the first three months of the year, up 4.2 percent year-on-year. Total revenues rose 23.4 percent to P4.4 billion in the first quarter.

"Revenue growth was a result of continued store openings as well as a tremendous surge in sales at Chowking," Yap of BPI Securities said. "Margins, however, continued to be squeezed by the weaker peso, higher wages and fuel costs. Margins contracted to 6.3 percent in the first quarter of 2001 versus 7.5 percent in the first quarter of 2000."

After a difficult period last year, which saw its net earnings contract by 3.3 percent, Jollibee said it expected a 15-percent growth in profits this year.

The new manufacturing facility will be used mainly for the Jollibee brand, but it will also service Greenwich's needs. Jollibee will share its warehousing and distribution facilities with Chowking.

The Jollibee group is planning to further expand its network this year. It has announced plans to put up 40 to 45 new Jollibee stores, 30 to 35 Chowking stores, 15 to 20 Greenwich stores, and five to 15 Delifrance outlets.

Navarette said out of a capital expenditure of P1.5 billion, Jollibee would get P350 million; Chowking, P150 million to P200 million; and, the rest, after deducting the cost of the commissary, would go to Greenwich and Delifrance.

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1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,200,000.00	-
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,100,000.00
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	850,000.00	-
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
5	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	-	350,000.00
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	-
8	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	500,000.00	450,000.00
9	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000.00	350,000.00
10	FOREST HILLS	280,000.00	-
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	4,000,000.00	-
13	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (individual)	15,500,000.00	14,500,000.00
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	500,000.00
15	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB		30,000.00
16	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	-	90,000.00
17	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	-
18	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000.00	
19	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
20	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	650,000.00
21	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (individual)		175,000.00
22	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	300,000.00
23	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC (CEBU)	please call	
24	WACK-WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	10,500,000.00	

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BPI tops asset management, trust

BPI Asset Management now leads in all three major industry divisions in the asset management and trust business, Bank of the Philippine Islands has announced.

The three major industry divisions are trust, investment management and common trust funds.

Together, they account for over P100 billion in assets managed.

With the slogan "Put your Trust in our Name," BPI Asset Management said it was embarking on yet another first.

In March, for instance, it unveiled its assets management awareness campaign to provide a continuous stream of informational values and projects.

The campaign is aimed at educating not only Unibankers but, more importantly, the investing public in general on the flexibility and depth of fiduciary products as a powerful investment alternative.

Products offered by BPI Asset Management include segregated portfolio management, trust administration, estate planning and common trust funds.

These investment products cater primarily to high net worth individuals, corporations and institutions requiring the expertise and resources of a professional fund management/trustee.

On Friday, BPI said its consolidated net income in the first three months of the year doubled to P2.14 billion from P1.07 billion during the same period last year.

The bank said its net income rose on a 20.7-percent increase in revenues owing to wider net margins and higher foreign exchange gains.

BPI's strong earnings helped offset weak profits tendered by the property business of Ayala Corp., its parent firm.

Ayala reported that its first quarter consolidated profit stood at P1.31 billion, almost flat from the same period of last year's P1.37 billion.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78.5	77.5	78	1,557,400
China Banking Corp.	670	750	670	750	6,930
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	44.5	46.5	44.5	46	290,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	214	206	214	166,160
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50.5	49	50.5	98,600
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	24.5	26	24.5	26	5,900
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	18.75	19.25	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	310,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1300	1270	1300	8,860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1085	1070	1085	13,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	41	40	41	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.46	3,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	1,390
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	720	700	715	416,360
Ivantage Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	330,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.048	0.043	0.048	283,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	44.5	41.5	43.5	329,700
Manila Electric Co. B	58.5	60	58.5	59.5	1,895,200
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.82	1.72	1.8	13,810,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.44	1.54	1.42	1.52	9,993,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	450,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	56,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,002,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.25	3.5	3.2	3.35	3,305,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	1,276,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	1,335,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	200
RFM Corp.	0.98	1.04	0.98	1.04	1,480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	82,300
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51	49.5	51	408,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	53,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.64	0.7	0.64	0.7	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.71	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	1,708,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.3	1,111,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.84	0.78	0.84	170,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	390,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.54	9,627,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	870,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.135	0.095	0.125	44,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,621,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.25	23.75	24.25	160,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.27	0.22	0.27	3,050,000
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	0.92	0.92	106,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1	1	1	1	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	2.02	1.92	2.02	519,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	6,110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	3,470,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	60,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	7,460,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	536,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	160,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.75	15	15.75	229,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.48	0.5	1,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.52	2,690,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	90,000
Manila Jockey Club	21	21	21	21	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	41	39.5	40.5	536,900
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	14,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	46,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	520	520	520	520	40
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	8,600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	41,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10	10	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.034	0.039	0.034	0.039	153,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	13,405,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	12,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	5,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.22	24,108,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.2	6.9	7.1	12,539,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	43,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	80,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	11,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	7,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	11,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	13,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	600,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,570,720	206,293,735.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	617,495,690	682,522,670.00
PRO	112,442,000	244,670,240.00
Mining	57,230,000	430,000.00
OIL	26,300,000	548,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	816,038,410	1,134,464,745.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	619.96	UP 8.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,018.19	UP 52.42
PRO	590.81	UP 20.15
Mining	1,152.64	UP 6.69
OIL	1.44	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	772.29	UP 20.37
Composite	1,484.83	UP 40.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 73; NO. OF DECLINES: 6; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 26; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 4,242

RP mission to woo European investors

(From page B3)

The country's IT exports have surged at an average of 34 percent a year since 1996 and were estimated at $700 million last year. Philippine IT exports to Europe is mostly funneled into Germany, the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

The Philippines' IT industry has an estimated 100,000 professionals (99 percent of whom are university degree holders) and the figure is growing at 32 percent a year. This has bolstered the Philippines' reputation as the country with the largest pool of English-speaking IT professionals in the world.

In its promotion materials, the Macapagal administration noted that Filipino IT professionals are not only proficient with all types of hardware but are also "technically and business-literate, and extremely multi-skilled and flexible, thus allowing them to be important integral players for the companies requiring their services."

Property firms to put up e-trading site

By Doris C. Dumlao

SIX of the country's biggest property firms are putting up a business-to-business portal devoted to construction and real estate, a new deal which will also involve the P1-billion e-procurement consortium Bayantrade.com.

The six groups are Ayala Land Inc., Robinsons Land Corp. of the Gokongweis, DMCI Holdings Inc. of the Consunji group, EEI Corp. of the Yuchengcos, the SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy and Greenfields Development Corp. of the Unilab group, according to EEI president and chief operating officer Samson Lazo.

Most of these groups are likewise founding partners of the Bayantrade consortium, which will also be involved in the new project.

Lazo said these groups would equally contribute to the seed money needed to put up the B2B portal before the middle of the year. He said discussions were still ongoing with the other founding partners as a new company would be put up for the portal.

ALI president Francisco Licuanan II had announced during the company's annual stockholders' meeting last week that a deal was in the works with six other big real estate and construction groups in the country to put up the new B2B vertical portal this year. However, Licuanan did not identify the groups involved in the new project.

"B2B exchanges through Bayantrade have helped us realize significant cost savings. We have also entered into an agreement with six of the largest developers and contractors in the country to build a B2B portal focused on the construction and real estate development," Licuanan said.

"It's basically a partnership with some of the other big groups. It will be similar to Bayantrade," he said.

Aside from Ayala Corp., the five other founding partners of Bayantrade are Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Benpres Holdings Corp., JG Summit Holdings, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and United Laboratories.

Performing politicians

On The Money

John Mangun

WELL, today is the big day. This is probably the most significant election in many, many years.

The Macapagal administration has tried to convince the voters that their ballots will in effect be a referendum on the current administration and its ascent to power.

However, I think that belittles both the intelligence of the voter and the genuine "people power" that will be expressed today.

I spent many evenings over the past two months attending the local political rallies. I heard "reelectionist" senators from both camps. I listened to the two major candidates for congress in my district of Makati. I talked with several of the candidates for elective office at the local Makati level. My final impression was that far too many of these candidates do not deserve to be elected to office and that the voters deserve better in the competence of their elected officials.

I will tell you something else I learned. Most of the candidates do not have a clue as to what is really important to the people they are trying to woo.

The mayor's race for Makati has become another "good versus evil" affair. However, outside the exclusive villages, there are two and only two issues that matter. On a scale of one to 10, both of these rate an "eleven." Everything is a "one" in comparison.

Makati residents are concerned that their children will continue to receive free textbooks in school. Mr. Manzano, with all his other potentially good qualities, did not convince the people that I spoke with that he could insure that this program would continue. The pupils at Makati public schools have received, in addition to the free books, free book bags, eyeglasses, shoes, T-shirts, notebooks, and other supplies. These things, for many people, make the difference between their children being able to attend school or not. "Graft and corruption" is a low priority to a mother who struggles everyday to make sure her children will receive an education that might improve her child's future. That is not to say that honesty in public officials is absolutely essential.

But sometimes the devil we know is better than the devil we do not know.

The second issue is free and low cost medical care.

My good friend, Dr. Ramoncito Coronel, is director of clinics at Ospital ng Makati. Although at times it has been a monumentally difficult task, he has made it very clear to me that in Makati, there is no good reason for a person to suffer because of lack of access to medical treatment. If Mr. Binay is re-elected to City Hall today, it will be primarily (if not exclusively) because of these two issues.

I listened late one night to a senator tell the audience that if he was elected, he would move for a reduction of personal income tax. Looking at the crowd, I estimated that maybe 10 percent of them had ever filed an income tax return. This group would have been more interested in hearing about a mass transit scheme that did not entail waiting in line for an uncomfortable, energy wasting jeepney, or any other proposal that might have a positive impact on their daily lives. But his handlers probably figured you talk taxes in Makati the same way you talk rice in Nueva Ecija.

I heard the term "Pro-Poor" so many times. I seriously began thinking about changing my life and living in a pushcart. I mean these politicians were telling me that, as a poor person, they would listen to my needs and help me. Not a single candidate I heard brought any specifics to table regarding job creation programs. When I say specifics I mean, where the money is coming from to fund the idea and how the idea is practical in the longer term. One candidate who I have a high regard for wants to build a school for performing arts to keep kids off drugs. But I kept thinking, how would this idea translate into building future lives of prosperity for our young people and our country? But then again I am probably wrong. As we all know, a show biz career can lead to the highest elected office in the land.

So today, most people will vote on personality and heart rather than policy and brains. That may not be a bad thing because, as reported last week, the economy loses P100 million a day to corruption at all levels. But I wonder how much we lose every day because of the incompetence of our public officials? Maybe we should build a school of performing politicians where they learn to make good policy. Most already know how to sing and dance.

Local, not foreign, investors positioned themselves heavily in the stock market last Friday. I hope they are right. Franky says I have been spending too much time in the mountains or at the campaign sorties. He might be right since he clearly called for a temporary move maybe as high as 1700 that I missed. After that, it is anybody's guess. Trade this market for short-term profits by selling into any euphoria. I do not see a big decline in the offing. However, I think 1700 may be too optimistic and we probably still need more time to get a major rally going. However, the rally will come. Eventually.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Reform hurdles await gov't after elections

(From page B1)

The foreign credit-rating firm also saw no significant growth, no immediate recovery in the fiscal position, and no dramatic rebound in investor confidence in the Philippines.

A total of 13 Senate seats are up for grabs in today's polls, along with thousands of congressional and local positions. Recent voter surveys have shown pro-administration Senate candidates comfortably in front of their opposition rivals.

However, the government's accusations that leading opposition candidates instigated an attack on the Palace by loyalists of ousted President Joseph Estrada last May 1 have aroused fears of a voter backlash against it.

Doomsayers say that could result in a "lame duck" government, scare off foreign investment, ratchet up the country's borrowing costs and put pressure on the peso.

"Baloney," is how Guillermo Luz, executive director of the influential Makati Business Club, describes such a scenario.

"What is more important is the conduct of the election and the public acceptance of the outcome," he said.

Even if opposition candidates do better than expected, that should not affect the government's ability to take steps to resuscitate the economy, he added.

"My reading is that most of the key pieces of legislation are already in place and there is nothing to stop their implementation regardless of the numbers in the Senate."

Historically, Philippine presidents have been able to govern effectively even when they did not always have a majority in Congress, he added.

"Even Estrada did not control the House and Senate all the time but he still passed some critical legislation," Luz said.

The issue for Ms Macapagal and the economy would not be numbers in Senate but whether she could effectively implement legislation already in place, which Estrada largely failed to do.

The President's main problem politically was the need to rein in the runaway budget deficit, estimated to reach P145 billion this year, at the same time as she does more to assist the poor, he said.

"The temptation is for short-term sops to please people . . . I think they can resist the temptation but it is made more difficult by the fact that globally, the economy is not going in the right direction right now."

Barclay's Capital Singapore researcher Dominique Dwor-Frecaut said Ms Macapagal faced formidable economic obstacles, and without a strong political mandate there was the danger of "a weak government that feels it needs to placate constituents."

Besides, a divided Senate raised the possibility of further political instability, which was likely to spook the foreign investment community, already gun-shy of the Philippines, she said.

"If there is more political instability, there is the danger of downgrades by the rating agencies and the difficulty of getting offshore funding (from the capital markets)," she said.

It also raised the specter of a further slide in the peso.

A key problem on the fiscal front was beefing up tax revenue and here the government would struggle unless it had a Senate fully supportive of measures to achieve this, she said.

"To me the key test is if she can raise the ratio of taxes collected to gross domestic product . . . if she can do that I will change my view on the Philippines."

"She has made basically all the right statements that foreign investors want to hear . . . now she has to deliver and it is difficult to deliver without a mandate."

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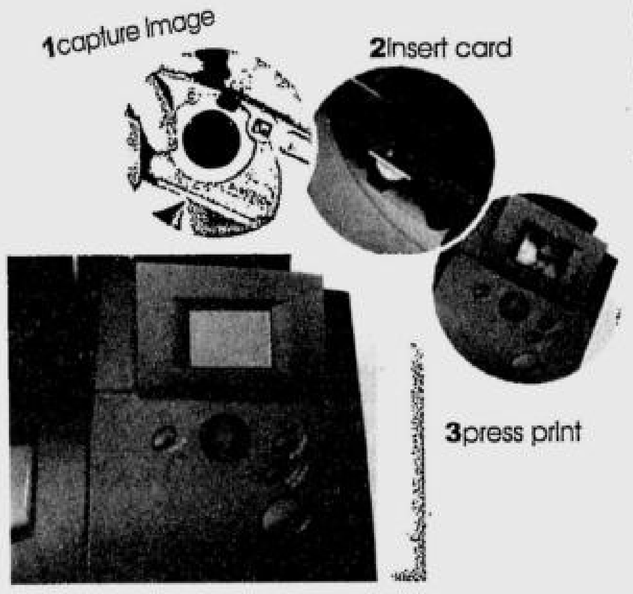

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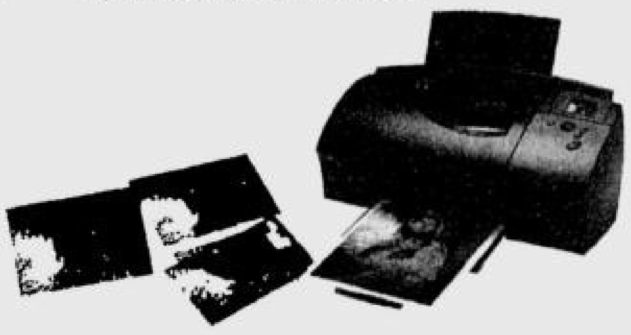

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

Technology takes part in poll coverage

BY LEO MAGNO

HAVING cast his vote earlier in the morning, Tulume whips out his Smart Communications cellular phone in the late afternoon of May 14. Deft thumb working the keypad, Tulume punches in the keyword "inq7(space)count" and sends the text message request to Smart. In a heartbeat, he gets the standings in the senatorial race, the first unofficial quick count results to be released.

Later at home in the evening, he boots up his computer, logs on to the Internet and checks out the latest news about the elections. A few clicks later and he is looking at the updated, real-time tally of the elections. Still another click away is streaming video of the tabulation being conducted at the National Movement for Free Elections at the La Salle Greenhills gymnasium.

Tulume e-mails his relatives in Baltimore and Pennsylvania, asking them to find out via the Internet what's happening to the results of the May 14 elections.

Wait a minute. Time out for a reality check.

Is this just another figment of the writer's imagination or is he just babbling anew about futuristic scenarios? Hardly.

Tulume may be fictional, but the stuff he just did as described above can happen to real people like you and me starting today, election day.

Technology has allowed the media to make nationwide coverages like the elections fast and accurate. One such example of this convergence of technologies to deliver real-time updates on the elections is the partnership called Eleksyon 2001. This partnership lists as its members the Philippine Daily Inquirer, GMA Network Inc., the Nation Broadcasting Corp., RGMA Network Inc., Radyo Veritas-Catholic Media Network, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., GMA New Media and INQ7 Interactive Inc.—the online news delivery organization jointly owned by GMA Network and the INQUIRER.

Going back to the cellular phone example of Tulume, Smart users can actually get the latest tally of the senatorial race via text message. Through INQ7.net, Smart gets the latest unofficial and official election tallies and makes it available to its subscribers.

INQ7.net is actually collecting election results from four sources.

On election day itself, at around 4 p.m., AMA Education System in partnership with Smart and GMA 7 will release exit polls gathered by the nationwide network of GMA and Smart and processed by more than 200 AMA Computer Learning Centers at more than 60 AMA Colleges across the country. This unofficial count will last for the first 72 hours of the elections.

Also on election day, at around 8 p.m., Radio Veritas and the Catholic Media Network will release the first results of their own unofficial tally, and these will also continue 24 hours a day for the first 72 hours.

Next, there's the quick count of Namfrel. A few days later the official results as tabulated by the Commission on Elections will be released.

All these data will be made available as soon as they are released to INQ7.net personnel stationed at these areas. The INQ7.net people on the field themselves will be equipped with Smart cell phones for the coverage. All these unofficial and official tabulated results will be made available not only to Smart subscribers but also to Filipinos both here and abroad via www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001.

TECHNOLOGY/ p.B7

The Eleksyon 2001 partners are making the results of the May 14 elections accessible to Filipinos here and abroad via www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS: MARLONE RUBIO

Business school accuses ex-employees of hacking

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

FORMER EMPLOYEES of the Thames International Business School in the Philippines were accused of hacking into the institution's computers and stealing "confidential" information valued at $2 million to $3 million, school officials said.

The school has filed a criminal case against seven ex-employees at the National Bureau of Investigation's (NBI) Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division last week, according to the school's lawyers.

The suspects are accused of hacking, online piracy and qualified theft or attempting to profit from Thames' proprietary information.

Under the E-commerce Law (Republic Act 8792), penalties for hacking and online piracy include a minimum fine of P100,000 up to the amount commensurate to the damage incurred, and imprisonment of six months to three years.

"The extent of the civil damages to Thames can go high in the course of the hearings," said the school's lawyer JJ Disini.

Affidavits filed at the NBI showed that accused employees allegedly copied the school's copyrighted materials, study guides and training manuals by hacking into the school's computers.

While the school officials were not able to catch them red-handed, the school's investigations revealed that the suspects had been copying documents and peddling them as their own.

In a statement, Vivienne Tan, chief executive officer and founder of Thames, said that the former employees failed to explain why those documents were in their possession. They were also asked to explain their side in writing, but "refused to accept or read the notice despite repeated requests" from the school officials.

Jaime Noel Santos, the school's director, indicated that the ex-employees were part of a "well-hatched conspiracy" involving certain members of the local academic community "with the intention of profiting from the sale and use of materials."

The only way to get hold of such information was through breaking into the school's computer systems, Santos said. He, however, declined to name them.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a firm using information copied from Thames allegedly employed the accused ex-Thames employees, Santos said.

Thames is an international business school with operations in different countries including the Philippines. Santos and Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan, established the school last year. It offers two-year undergraduate programs validated by a body of the University of Cambridge.

School officials stressed that they are determined to pursue the case against the ex-employees and are not considering an out-of-court settlement.

HailStorm hits India

BOMBAY—Microsoft Corp. unveiled in India its latest .Net technology—"HailStorm"—and said six major Indian software companies had developed applications for it, the first to do so in the Asia-Pacific region.

HailStorm, part of Microsoft's .Net strategy to start selling software as a service delivered online, is effectively a personal information manager that helps make online transactions easier whether through a PC, a cellphone or other handheld device.

Using HailStorm, a person will be able to check flight schedules, book and pay for a ticket, have the cost automatically reflected in a personal budget program and the trip dates added to a personal calendar.

The system uses an open access model meant to work with "any device, service or application with an Internet connection regardless of the underlying platform, operating system, object model, programming language or network provider."

Orlando Ayala, Microsoft vice president for sales and marketing, said in Bombay that the Indian launch of HailStorm was its first overseas. The technology was unveiled in the United States only in March.

But Ayala added companies in other parts of the world were also working on applications. *Reuters*

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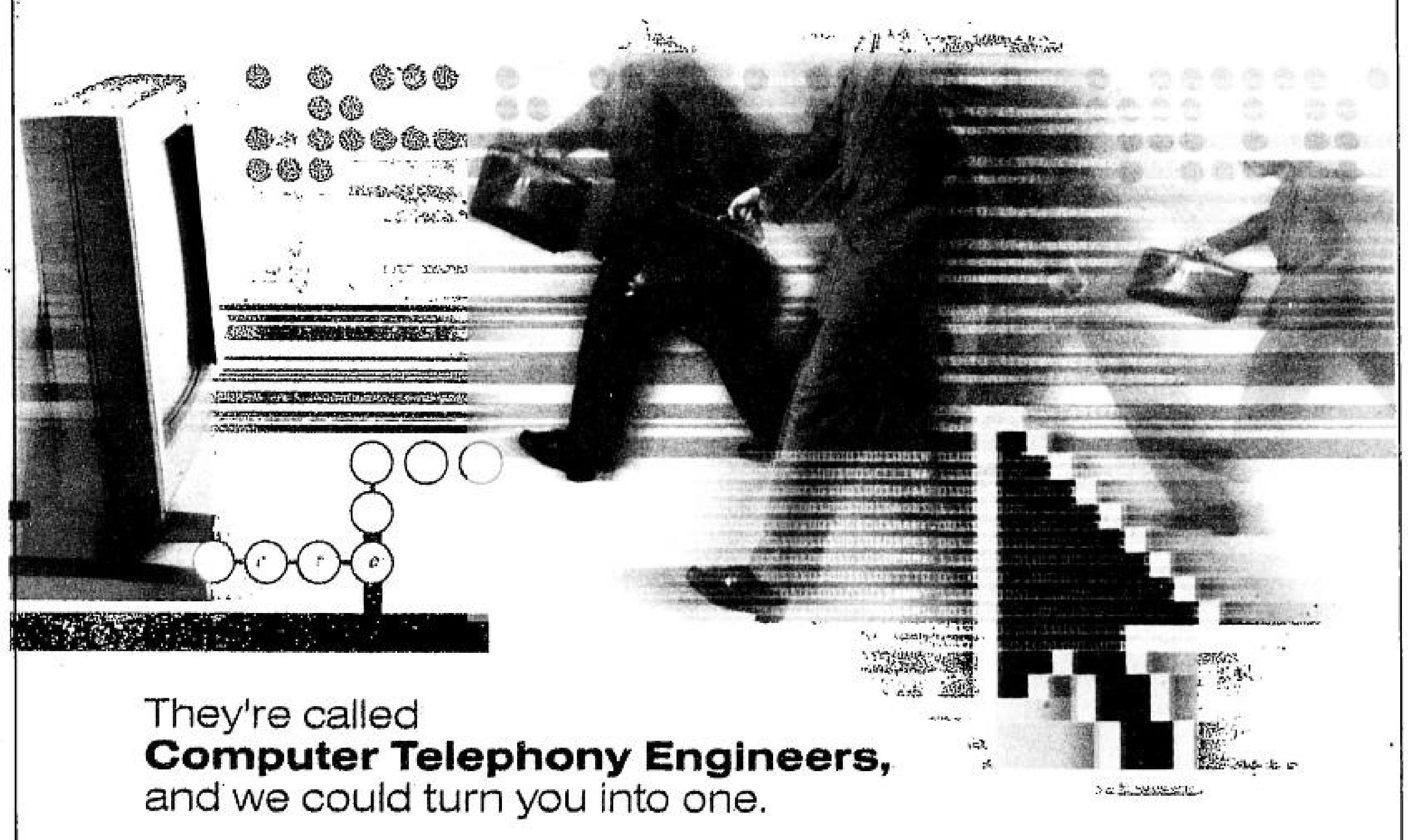

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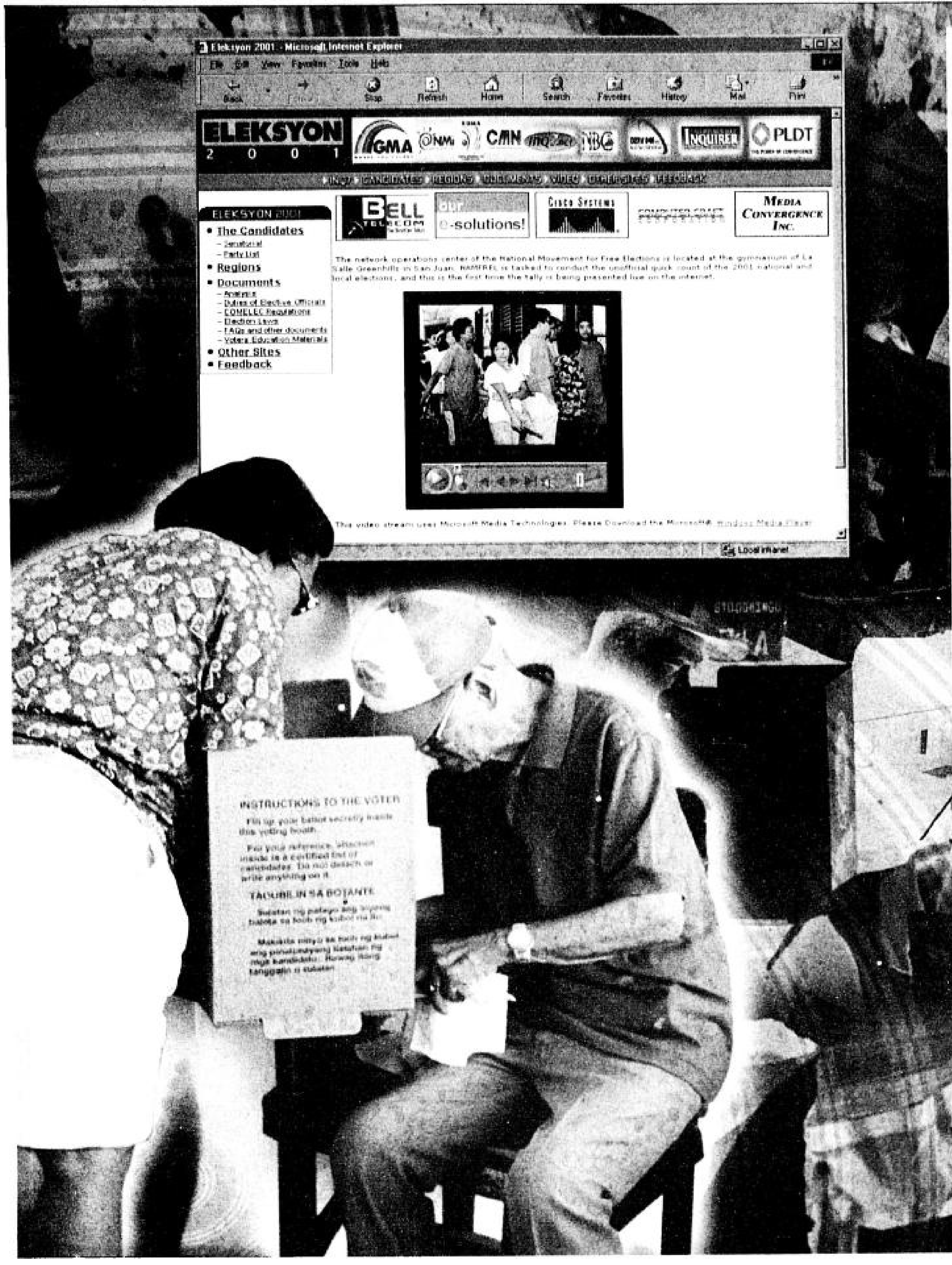
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  - Senatorial
  - Party List
- Regions
- Documents
  - Analysis
  - Duties of Elective Officials
  - COMELEC Regulations
  - Election Laws
  - FAQs and other documents
  - Voters Education Materials
- Other Sites
- Feedback

The network operations center of the National Movement for Free Elections is located at the gymnasium of La Salle Greenhills in San Juan. NAMFREL is tasked to conduct the unofficial quick count of the 2001 national and local elections, and this is the first time the tally is being presented live on the internet.

This video stream uses Microsoft Media Technologies. Please Download the Microsoft® Windows Media Player

Technology takes part . . .

(From page B6)

Not only that. Through tie-ups with PLDT, Bell Telecom, Media Convergence, Computer Craft, Mindgate and Cisco Systems, INQ7.net will make available live streaming video of the Namfrel tally in Greenhills. Thus, Filipinos here and abroad can view the action at the Namfrel network operations center and view the updates as they are fed to the media.

Such technologies are changing the way by which media deliver news and information to audiences worldwide. Tulume wouldn't have been able to do this even during the May 1998 presidential elections.

A big enabler in this radical change is modern telecommunications. INQ7.net, in partnership with Bell Telecom, will be utilizing wireless broadband technology. This became especially helpful since this type of broadband access minimizes the use of cabling at the Namfrel area, the technology being wireless. PLDT will also play a crucial role in sending data to and from Namfrel, Comelec and other important remote sites to the INQ7.net headquarters at Rufino Building on Ayala Avenue, Makati. Voice lines, DSL (digital subscriber line) and cellular lines via Smart are being made available to INQ7.net to make this technologically advanced coverage possible.

In some cases, customized Web forms will be utilized by INQ7.net field personnel to send tallied results to the Rufino headquarters and to the Eleksyon 2001 partners. Couple this with direct connections to the INQ7.net office or even direct dial-ups to the Rufino server and you minimize the occurrence of erroneous keyed-in figures. And, being at the source of the various reports, INQ7.net is ensured that the data are sent to the website and to Eleksyon 2001 partners as fast as possible.

The website itself, at www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001, will carry breaking news and an up-to-the-minute running account of the elections every day until the final tabulated results are released by the Comelec.

The Eleksyon 2001 partnership has proven to be beneficial to all partners involved in terms of releasing the latest election update, but behind all this speed and efficiency is a collection of assorted technologies which make the entire network run smoothly. The beauty about all this, however, is the fact that a concerned citizen such as Tulume will be able to access all this information from the Eleksyon 2001 partners seamlessly since the technology is running in the background unobtrusively. The complexity has been taken away from the eyes of the end-user to let him or her get information fast through different media: television, print, radio, the Internet and via mobile phones.

INQ7.net is also bracing for the expected increase in traffic which the website is sure to experience starting today. A failover site has been set up to make sure that the website will continue to deliver its services when unexpected interruptions or unprecedented traffic occurs.

Historically, big national events such as the impeachment trial of former president Joseph Estrada, People Power II and the Mendiola riots of the pro-Estrada supporters have always made INQ7.net's page views jump. This can be attributed to the fact that our countrymen abroad become thirsty for news during these crucial events in Philippine history, and so they turn to INQ7.net to get news fast.

Consequently, viewership of the website jumps remarkably. Unlike other media, the Internet is one medium whose viewership can be tracked almost 100 percent accurately. For example, at around the time when the Estrada supporters were storming the Palace, INQ7.net traffic spiked up to 6.25 megabits per second, up from the usual 1.5 to 2 megabits per second. This figure shows how much bandwidth activity occurred as a result of the breaking news and running account of the Mendiola riot.

The number of hits and page views also reveal that the viewership spike was indeed caused by our round-the-clock reportage of the riots. Four days before the May 1 riot, INQ7.net's hits were ranging from 2,105,220 (667,338 page views) on April 27 to 1,339,064 hits (433,831 page views) on April 29.

On May 1, however, the site received a whopping 5,070,292 hits (1,571,968 page views) or 73,437 unique visitors for that day alone. As big as this may sound, INQ7.net received more viewership during People Power II with 1,877,276 page views in a single day.

To give you a better perspective of these figures, it would take an average commercial website from the Philippines around five to six months to reach a million page views.

And so, as Tulume uses his fingers either on his cell phone or his keyboard, he may not be aware of it but technology has made him satisfy his hunger for news at the soonest possible time, definitely faster than he had ever experienced during previous elections.

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ERICSSON

Foundation to push ICT envelope in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE DIGITAL Philippines Foundation will help President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo fulfill her three-point agenda for the information and communications technology (ICT), according to foundation chair Roberto Romulo.

"We will assist the President in carrying out her policy statement made during the e-Asean Task Force roadshow in Manila," Romulo, who is also head of the task force, said.

Ms Macapagal proposed, at that time, to push for a law that would promote "convergence" in the country. The proposal includes the creation of the ICT department.

Romulo is currently co-chair of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC), the highest ICT policymaking body. He replaced Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala Group.

Romulo said the foundation is expected to work with the ITECC and not stand as an independent body.

The foundation intends to bring all parties from the private sector into one "umbrella" organization, Romulo said.

This year, the foundation will lead pilot projects, policy research, advocacy initiatives and even sponsor a convention designed for the local ICT industry. The 1st ICT convention is scheduled on the first quarter of 2002.

EASTERN TELECOMS · INQ7.net
Contract Signing

ADSL AGREEMENT

Eastern Telecoms Philippines Inc. COO Angelo Molato (second from left) shakes hands with INQ7 Interactive Inc. president Dennis Valdes (fourth from right) after INQ7.net formalized last March its agreement with ETPI for the latter to provide ADSL (asynchronous digital subscriber line) service. INQ7 relied on ETPI's ADSL connection in its coverage of the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and the subsequent People Power II revolution in January. At the contract signing were (from left) ETPI VP for information services Joevel Rivera, Molato, ETPI sales manager Josh Doctolero, Valdes, INQ7.net VP for sales and linkages Edna Belleza, INQ7.net VP for technology Roberto Gantuangco and ETPI AVP Agnes Gervacio.

RP firms realize benefits of open source computing

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

IF the growing number of clients of Q-Linux Solutions Inc. would be an indication of the growing interest in Linux in the Philippines, then local companies are beginning to realize the benefits of open source solutions.

Q-Linux is a local Linux and open source technology provider serving more than 300 clients—majority of which are Internet service providers. The company has recently seen growth of clients in the enterprise market.

The company offers support and training services to local firms. It has also developed applications based on Linux, including corporate e-mail, prepaid Internet systems, office productivity tools and, soon, point-of-sales (POS) system and unified messaging applications on Linux.

"I think it is the right time to sell Linux-based solutions in the Philippines," said Dominique Cimafranca, technical marketing manager of IBM Asia Pacific's NetGeneration Business. IBM Philippines and Q-Linux, and Cyclades, a networking solutions firm, have recently come together to push Linux-based products in the Philippines.

Citing studies, he said that the number of Linux-based servers shipped last year has grown, and has even come close to NT-based server shipments. It was also evident that more Linux boxes are selling more than Unix boxes.

"But open source is not about free software. It is about giving people the choice between proprietary and open source software," Cimafranca said, stressing that open source solutions allow companies to build homegrown applications, he added.

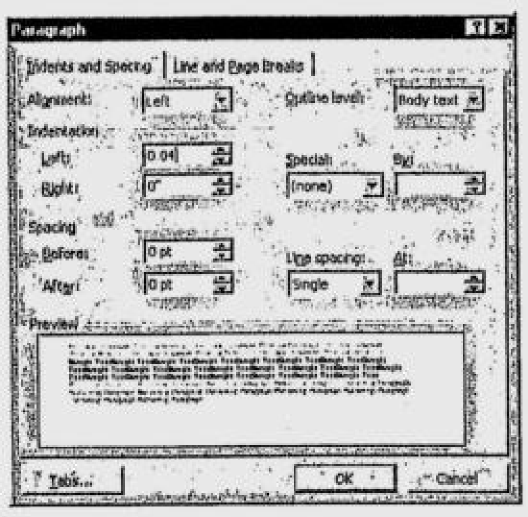
"We're expecting a paradigm shift soon—from the use of proprietary software to open source," said Ma. Carina Medrano, marketing manager of Q-Linux.

Although majority of the company's clients last year are local Internet service providers, Medrano said that at least 40 percent of their customers come from the enterprise market in the early part of this year. That increase was prompted by increased awareness of the availability of technical support and services in the Philippines.

Buddy Cruz, director of sales for Cyclades Asia Pacific said that part of the lure of open source solutions is its affordability.

"They're 150 percent cheaper than Internet solutions based on proprietary software," he added.

Cyclades is currently promoting its "NetLinOS," an initiative aimed at making Linux a "basic component" of networking.



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YES, Virginia. You can add a vertical line to your Microsoft Word document.

How to add vertical lines in MS Word

By Jerry Liao

YOU may want to make your Microsoft Word document more stylish and look more organized by adding a vertical line to the left side of the page. Here's how:

1. Before you start typing, click on "Format" and then "Paragraph."
2. Set the "Left Indention" to 0.4 (or to your desired location) then click "OK."
3. Go to "Format," then "Borders" and then "Shading."
4. Under "Borders," click at the left side of the preview under "Borders" to tell MS Word that you want a single left border, or simply click on the left border icon.
5. Click "OK." As you type, a vertical line will appear on the left side of the text

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Supply chain solution from Accenture

By Gerry Plaza

ACCENTURE has announced a new set of supply chain collaboration solutions allowing both the food and consumer packaged goods industries to achieve enhanced performance in sales, order and delivery of products.

Called Collaborative Planning, Forecasting and Replenishment (CPFR), the solution enables retailers and manufacturers to participate in collaborative trading networks in tracking and providing sales and order-related information. CPFR is also capable of aligning supply with demand to further reduce inventory, improve service levels and increase sales. The solution allows trading partners to be "visible" to each other, meaning several dimensions of the supply chain could be plotted.

A simple forecast in supply behavior is shared across trading partners, allowing improved anticipation of demand. This capability is considered a competitive advantage, especially for companies with complex plan-forecast-replenishment set-ups.

CPFR was designed to strengthen business alliances between suppliers and retailers using collaborative business techniques through robust Internet or wide area network connections. It also defines processes and best practices for establishing and implementing collaborative relationships among trading partners. CPFR leads to the development of highly efficient collaborative trading networks, Accenture said.

In the Philippines, Accenture plans to deploy the solution through prospective pilots, with the consulting firm providing strategic direction, deployment, implementation, and management through the extended enterprise. They plan to tap retail, manufacturing, distribution, and logistics services companies in integrating CPFR.

Revenue enhancement could lead to billions of pesos in revenue enhancement and reduced operating costs, Accenture Philippines managing partner Jaime del Rosario said in a press briefing. Citing Accenture reports on its foreign clients, Del Rosario said around a $7 billion to $12 billion opportunity for increased sales and a $150 billion to $250 billion potential in reduced operating costs could be achieved, with improved service levels and supply chain efficiencies.

Del Rosario claimed Accenture aims to implement its first local pilot, consisting of a retailer, manufacturer and distributor in a specific industry, for CPFR. Upon the pilot's completion and progress, Accenture plans to roll out CPFR to manufacturing firms at the onset, Del Rosario said. Further deployment in the retail and distribution sectors would follow.

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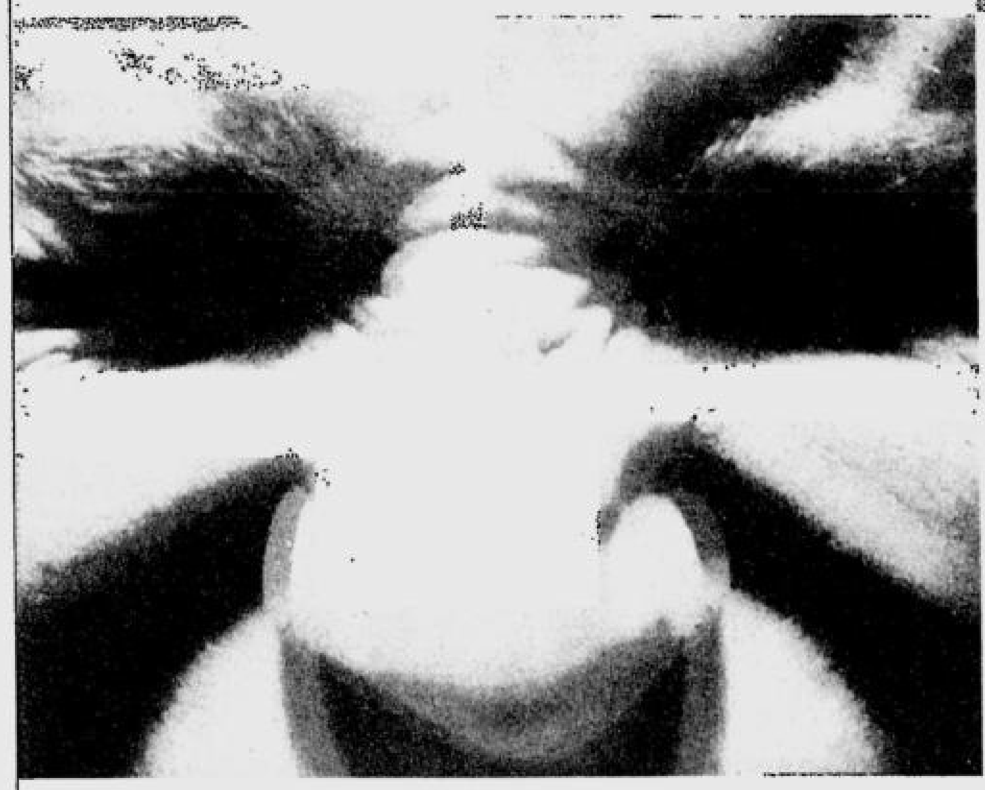

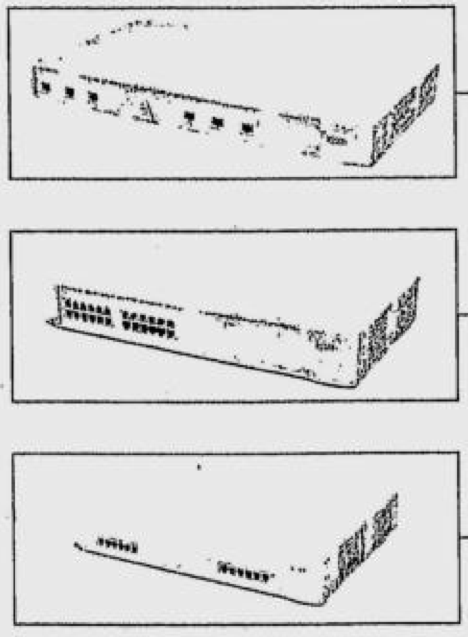

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"We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding"
- Colossians 1:9

GENOVEVA FERNARDO ADRIANO

"ALING BIBANG"

"Yes, you are dear to our hearts, but as great as our love for you is, God's love is greater"

April 10, 1919 - May 11, 2001

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 11, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her loving children **Norina** and **Efren**, **Atty. Rodolfo "Boy"** and **Elena**, **Rolando** and **Letty**, **Teresita** and **Rick**, **Dr. Ricardo, Jr.** and **Grace**; grandchildren **Christine** and **Cid**, **Christopher**, **Catherine**, **Genevieve**, **Adrian**, **Olivia Elaine**, **Marilen**, **Ofelia** and **Joseph**, **Jhenyfer**, **Andrew**, **Kevin**; **Karen**, **Kathleen**; great grandchildren **Iris Kristin**, **Jose Ramon**, **Noreen Kristin**, **Menand Ramon**, **Ricardo Vicente**, **Angelica Mae Camille**, **John Carlo** and **Joseph Adrian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in offering praises and thanks to the Lord for her life.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Bayuga Street, Muñoz Science City, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on May 16, 2001 at Muñoz Memorial Garden after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

ATTY. ANDRES BORLONGAN PULUMBARIT

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 9, 2001 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **PACITA**; children **RODY** (†), **VILMA**, **REMY & ED**, **BUDDY & RITA**, **ANNIE & BOY**, sister **ENCAR** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 16, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. service Mass at Arlington.

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"The Lord God gave Nanay a long and fruitful life.
Now he has called her home to His Heavenly Kingdom."

Paula Espiritu Laviña

June 18, 1907 - May 13, 2001

We, her loved ones:
Spouse, FILEMON LAVIÑA (†)
Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren:
ZENAIDA and PATERNO MANSO
DR. NORMA and COL. MANUEL CRUZ (†)
DR. SANDRA and DR. DENNIS HERNANDEZ
MEGGY, GABBY, NIKKI and HANNAH
EMMANUEL and JESSICA CRUZ
ANIKA
ATTY. ROSE BEATRIZ and ATTY. ESTANISLAO ANGELES III
RAFFY, RISSA, RED and REBECCA (†)
WEENEE and MARCO LABOTAY
JONATHAN and JOELLE
ROSARIO and EDMUNDO GARCIA (†)
CELINE and JV
FILEMON "TOTI" JR. (†)
MARIA CORAZON and ROBERTO VIADO
PIA and GRACE
Siblings, ENRIQUE (†), BELEN DELA PAZ, FELISA VALDEZ and ANTONIO

request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cascia Mortuary, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 16, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ELOISA 'ELY' BERNARDO QUIMSON

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 12, 2001 at the age of 78.

Her loving children Jaime, Jr. & Estrella, Lilian & Joey Biagtan, Lennie & Joey Aclan; sisters-in-law Lualhati Q. Quimson, together with grandchildren and great grandchildren, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Home (Gen. Luna Street, Malabon, Metro Manila)

Interment will be on May 16, 2001 at Tugatog Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Aglipay Church.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for thou art with me,
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

— **Psalms 23**

JOSEPHINE OLIVIA FRANCISCO GONZALES

19 March 1955 - 11 May 2001

We thank God for your life, so lovingly shared with us. The times we shared both happy and sad shall always be etched in the depths of our heart, for we were always together, bound by one love, one faith, one hope, and one aspiration.

Yet we bid you not farewell, for we know that in the richness of God's love we shall be together once more to share in the banquet of life. We shall be together again in His loving bosom, in His glorious Kingdom where the fullness of life, love, and joy shall be our portion.

We love you...

NEPTALI "Boyet" GONZALES II
and
KRISTINE OLIVIA FRANCISCO GONZALES

We celebrate Joy's life, one lived fully, meaningfully, and courageously. In her passage onto the glory of the resurrection, there shall be no tears of sadness for us, but those of joy. She was unselfish with her friendship, her bounty, and her mirth.

Let our love for Joy usher her into God's bosom.

Evelyn and Manny Aldaba; Elizabeth Grace and Joe Cruz;
Annie and David Lambert

Senate President Neptali and Mrs. Candida Gonzales; Aida Mendoza;
Eric and Myrna Cuejilo; Willy and Rhodora Beleno
her loving kin, friends, and colleagues.

Ms. Gonzales' remains lie in state at the family residence, 83 Maysilo Circle, City of Mandaluyong. Interment will be announced later.

"When I am dead, my dearest,
Sing no sad songs for me;
Plant thou no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress tree;
Be the green grass above me
With showers and dewdrops wet;
And if thou wilt, remember,
And if thou wilt, forget."

— Christina Rossetti

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

MARIA ROSA KHO DE GUZMAN

Of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque and Lucena City

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 12, 2001 at the age of 71.

Her husband Sy Hua Bing de Guzman; loving children Nemelia and Arturo, Ely and Romy (†), Marilyn and Charlie, Elizabeth and Romulo Jr., August and Josephine, Jupiter and Jana, Wison, Reynaldo, Gerry, Jenevieve, and Clarence; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Saint Joseph Chapel, New Manila, Quezon City.

Her body will be transported to Lucena City on May 15, 2001, her remains lie at Holy Rosary Chapel, Lucena City.

Interment will be on May 17, 2001 at 1:00 PM at Saint Ferdinand Memorial Park, Lucena City.

In Loving Memory
of the 93rd Birth Anniversary of the late

PEDRO G. TRONO, M.D.

May 14, 1908 - October 17, 1979

Congressman, First District of Iloilo (1954-1969)
and faithful husband of the late Lourdes Solidum Trono, M.D.

His children **Lucy Trono** and **Edgar Allan**; and sister **Trinidad T. Gestosani** request the pious readers to remember him in prayers and at the Holy Masses to be said at the following

Holy Family Parish Church, Kamias, Quezon City	6:30 PM
Shrine of St. Joseph, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City	6:00 PM
Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City	6:00 PM
San Nicholas de Tolentino Parish Church, Guimbal, Iloilo	6:00 AM
Epiphany of the Lord Parish Church, Second Avenue on 23rd Street, New York City, USA	12:00 NN

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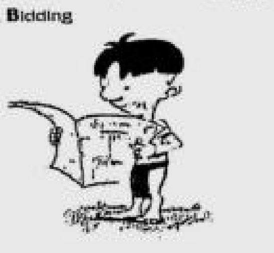

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Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
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51 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
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Duterte Street, Davao City
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Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
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Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
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Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
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Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
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Tel No. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
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Marlon's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
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☎912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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Megamall Branch
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VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm DR. GATAN

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Accu-Heat Therapy4352335

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We Build Houses 4178012

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BE SLIM 2443937

NO FLU 24 HRS 3743579

Slimming Program 5219683

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PC Parts Repair 9254960

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Munti & Pque: 807-5788 • 853-3505

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Direct-Maids,Yaya,Cook 7570579

Good Maids 9133005

Good-Maids-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

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MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

MAIDS
Available • 871-2370

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'boy w/NBI 873-5062 • 871-2372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 741-8078

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

CHEAP LBAHAY7433225

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•LBahay6392210/6392959•

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

•LIPAT•731-6833

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CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 8207068

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SUBIC 96,828m²
good 4 subd 0919-2300217

HOUSE & LOT

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Aya Ala 10-12M LA371 3BR 842-1571 0919-2061384

KALOOCAN

Nova Celina P360T 9390299

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Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

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American Hse LA120 FA160 2BR 2M Greenheights Phs4 09176009741 / 4167688

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

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Bo Capitolyo Bungalow 3BR 3CG P6M • 671-4421

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SFDM QC L624m² wHse 2sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

Samat St SMH L600 4sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

D. Tuazon SMH QC 411m² 2styTel. #928-1469

Baler St. L3000 wHse Tel. #928-1469

Congressional Ave. QC Comml Lot L471m² 928-1469

D. Tuazon 430m with 7 Dr Apt 30T/m² • 928-3267

Filinvest2 760m² Big Haus/ Garden P15.5M 671-4421

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San Antonio SFDM QC 363m² w/old hse 928-3267

Sta. Mesa Heights Houses 65M-10M • 928-3267

Timog QC 993sqm w/Old House • 928-2497

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Eagle Ridge Golf Sh 1.1M 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

Tagaytay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

Tagaytay Southridge
BNew 4BR 4TB w/MR, LR, DK LA328 10M • 0917-2000693

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LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

Vicente Ilustre 240m² P6M with Bung • 928-3267

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Deparo Cal City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 928-1469

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Wack Wack 1100m² P40T/m² Near Manuela T671-4421

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Rush 510m² SAV1 6556284

Theoville III=V/Lot=Corner 479m² 643-5313 0917-4378409

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869sqm Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

Tandang Sora L1640M62 Vac Lot Tel. #928-1469

Baesa QC L932 4 L-Ind Tel. #928-1469

Del Monte L1600m² V. Lot Tel. #928-1469

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RIZAL

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QC Twnhse 4BR 3TB Comp Acssble 15th 932-8965

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Mindanao Ave. nr Cong'l 1400m² lot with 400m² warehse Call 9291863

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted To Buy Shaw Twr 1Bdrm Pgr 1481788421

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Malate T-400-6420 / 23
Sn Pedro Lag 808-6006/ 07

BNew @ Fort Boni P350/m² At The IT Zone 671-4421

Cainta com'l30m² 6552773

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NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

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The National Housing Authority is inviting contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to Pre-Qualify & Bid for the contract listed below:

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	PCAB/IAC Category	IAC Classification
1.	AAA	Large B for Buildings

A. Pre-C forms, Bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following:
1.) Letter of Intent; 2.) PCA/AIC License with Official Receipt; 3.) Certificate of Completion/ Acceptance & Contract Agreement of similar project; and 4.) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per contract shall be received only from authorized representative.
C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's check.
D. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on **May 16, 2001**. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a Bid Bulletin.
E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – May 2, 4 & 16, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Vote, tie and draw

Q. What if there's a tie between candidates in a local or national election?

A. There's a simple solution provided by the Omnibus Election Code.
Under the supervision of the Commission on elections, the candidates who tied for a particular position draw lots -- plain paper pieces, actually -- numbered "1", "2", "3", or higher, depending on how many they were. The one who draws the lot bearing "1" is declared winner of the position being contested.

For the Record. In the 1992 local elections Manuel Bongalos and Joel Bomediano ended up with exactly 2,381 votes each in the race for mayor of the Bohol town of Dauis. The two drew lots and Bomediano came out the lucky one. The Board of Canvassers proclaimed him winner by a plurality -- of 1.

Past Forward. This day in 1930: Ellen Church, a registered nurse, became the world's first stewardess, taking care of 11 passengers in a Boeing Transport (later to become United Airlines) flight from Oakland, California, to Cheyenne, Wyoming. In Europe, the first stewardess was Nelly Diener, a Swiss woman hired by Swissair in 1934. In 1919, at the beginning of commercial aviation, it was often the radio operators who served drinks or picnic-style meals. It was not until 1927 that the first stewards started to appear on British Imperial Airways airplanes.

WORD WATCH

QANTAS : acronym for Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service -- Queensland and Northern Territory are states of the Commonwealth of Australia.

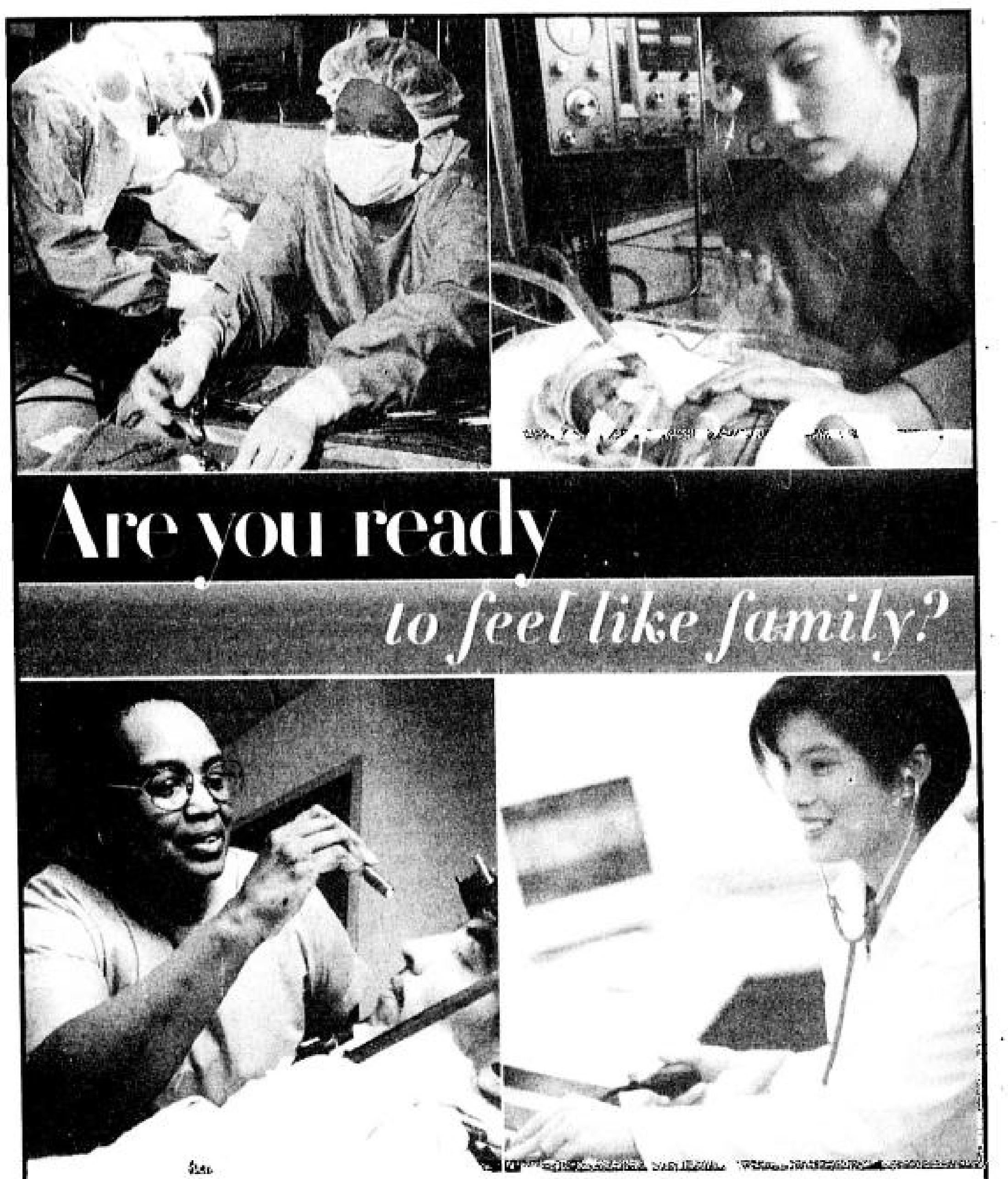
PDI - - March 14, 2001

BANKARD DOLLAR WINNER

Bankard Card marketing services manager Irene Taylo (center) and senior assistant manager of ads and promo-marketing services Rozelle Papasin (right) awarded the grand prize of $25,000 to lucky Bankard MasterCard cardholders Lourdes H. Tinio (left) during the recently held Bankard eCraze grand draw. Tinio has been a Bankard MasterCard cardholder since 1996. Bankard, Inc., the credit card company with the widest range of products, issues Bankard MF1, Bankard One, Bankard MasterCard and Bankard Visa.

HOMECOMING QUEEN

The Northern Mindanao Colleges High School Batch '76 was the silver jubilarian during its homecoming recently at Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte. Proclaimed the homecoming queen was Virgie G. Monton (center), an assistant vice president of Platinum Plans; first runner up was Doris Cempron-Mendoza, a nurse based in New York City (left). Ethelda Trinos Santos of Cabuyao Sangguniang Bayan was second runner-up. It was a jubilant reunion that started with a medical mission in the morning. A parade in the afternoon followed by a mass and homecoming night.



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ROSTER OF MILLIONAIRES

House of Sara Lee, one of the country's top direct selling companies, recently inducted independent business managers who achieved their first P1 million sales in one month to its Roster of Millionaires during its 8th Annual Convention held at The Manila Hotel. Shown in photo are (from left) HoSL general manager Ricky Sy, independent business managers Lydia Manlo (Shaw), Judy Patricio (Las Piñas), Ellen Diaz, (Caloocan), Luz Mapendan (Caloocan), Eleonor Cruz (Zamboanga), Cora Orbeta (Davao), and Cesar Verastigue (Batangas).

CMG HONORS TOP SALES PRODUCERS

CMG of Australia, an integrated financial services company, recently held its Annual Awards for Top Sales Producers of 2000 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Among those cited were winners of the Long Term National Contest who will enjoy a trip to Toronto and Niagara Canada. CMG senior vice president for health care Dr. Olympia Panotes (extreme left) and CMG assistant vice president for Metro 3 distribution group Mike Capati (extreme right) presented the trophies to (from left) Gloria Manuel-Sonsing–Integrity Assurance (Binondo), Anita de Guzman–Achievers Region (Metro II), Mariebeth Co – Golden Age Insurance Services (Binondo), John Wu–Golden Age Insurance Services, Jerome San–Foundation Life Insurance Agency (Binondo), Bella Co–Milestone Insurance Services (Binondo) and Beni Alcaraz–Cebu (Vismin). CMG offers life insurance, pension, education, health care plans and credit cards. It is wholly owned by Commonwealth Bank, the largest financial services group in Australia.

Despite global slowdown, Asia seen to avoid crisis

HONOLULU—One after another, the finance ministers and central bankers from across Asia showed the same concern and determination.

Yes, the outlook for the global economy is bleak, they said. Yes, our region will be hurt by the US slowdown and the sudden downturn in the global electronics industry.

But don't expect to see much of Asia collapse the way it did four years ago with a crisis that damaged financial markets and economies around the world.

"Asia is coming under renewed stress," said Singapore's minister, Lim Hng Kiang. "But Asia is better positioned than in the past to absorb and ride out the shocks."

As the 59 nations of the Asian Development Bank held their 34th annual meeting in Honolulu this week, many of the Asian members welcomed the fact that the painful, free-market reforms they began to impose during the region's 1997-98 financial crisis have led to a recovery that now makes Asia the world's fastest growing region.

The International Monetary Fund recently said global growth this year should slow to 3.2 percent, compared with 4.8 percent last year, in part because the US economy, the world's largest, was expected to grow by only 1.5 percent.

In its latest outlook, the ADB said the Asian region, excluding Japan, Australia and New Zealand, would see a slowdown in growth to 5.3 percent from 7.1 percent in 2000. But, it said, that would be followed by a rebound to 6.1 percent in 2002.

As the ADB, an international lending agency, ended its annual meeting Friday, its ministers welcomed the fact that they had escaped the kind of large and violent anti-globalization protests that had disrupted many other international economic forums.

On Thursday, about 500 protesters gathered outside the Hawaii Convention Center to criticize what they regarded as the ADB's failure to achieve its primary goal: reduce widespread poverty across the Asia-Pacific region. Organizers had predicted thousands of demonstrators.

Carrying signs and shouting slogans, the protesters criticized the growing divide between rich and poor in today's competitive global market, and the growing dominance of Western multinational corporations and chain stores such as GAP, Starbucks and McDonald's.

But the protesters dispersed peacefully after ADB president Tadao Chino of Japan went out into the streets to accept their list of demands and say he would consider them.

As usual, the ADB took few actions during its annual meeting as its members from Asia, Europe and the Americas discussed their economies and the ADB's goals.

For instance, Chino told reporters he was "very much encouraged" by the recent decision by the military government in Myanmar to hold private talks with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and to allow a European Union delegation to visit the Southeast Asian nation.

But the ADB made no decision about Myanmar's request for the bank to drop its 1986 suspension of all financial assistance to the country, also known as Burma, because of what the ADB regarded as its widespread human rights abuses.

North Korea's request to become an ADB member also appeared to be ignored, despite South Korea's request for ADB members to support its efforts to promote reconciliation with the North and to encourage the reclusive communist country to reach out to the rest of the world.

The United States, one of the ADB's top shareholders, did not appear to drop its opposition to loans to a country that it regards as a terrorist state.

PROTESTER Eric Pelland of Honolulu shouts anti Asian Development Bank slogans while plainclothes police monitor the crowd outside the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu. Asian Development Bank president Tadao Chino left a luncheon session and went into the street Wednesday to accept a petition from representatives of hundreds of protesters marching on the bank's annual board of governor's meeting. *AP*

Like other officials, US Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill held bilateral meetings with other ADB nations. They included the highest-level meeting Washington has held with China since a US spy plane crashed into a Chinese warplane over the South China Sea on April 1.

O'Neill and Chinese Finance Minister Xiang Huaicheng did not discuss their countries' dispute over the return of the US plane, which is still being held on China's Hainan island, where it made an emergency landing. But Xiang told reporters that the dispute should not be allowed to undermine the growing business ties between the two countries.

On the sidelines of the ADB convention, its Southeast Asian member nations met privately with China, Japan and South Korea, and announced a currency swap agreement.

Under the deal, Japan, the world's second largest economy, agreed to quickly loan South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia several million dollars in the US currency if their own currencies are battered by sudden swings in today's turbulent financial markets. Japan said it was talking with the Philippines and China about striking similar deals.

The currency swap agreements were the first sign that an Asiawide currency safety net, first proposed more than a year ago, is beginning to take shape.

The deals came at a time when many of the stock and currency markets across the Asia-Pacific region are suffering sharp declines, as a result of the global economic slowdown, but nowhere near as bad as the ones during the Asian crisis. *AP*

Arbitration of corporate feuds pushed

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

ALARMED by the rising cost of doing business in the country due to corporate disputes, the Board of Investments has decided to take a direct hand in resolving these legal squabbles by encouraging businessmen to consider arbitration before litigation to avoid costly and tedious lawsuits.

BOI managing head Vincent Perez Jr. said the BOI was egging on all industry associations to adopt arbitration as the first mode of dispute settlement. "We have asked the business organizations to commit their members into submitting themselves into arbitration that will be binding on all parties."

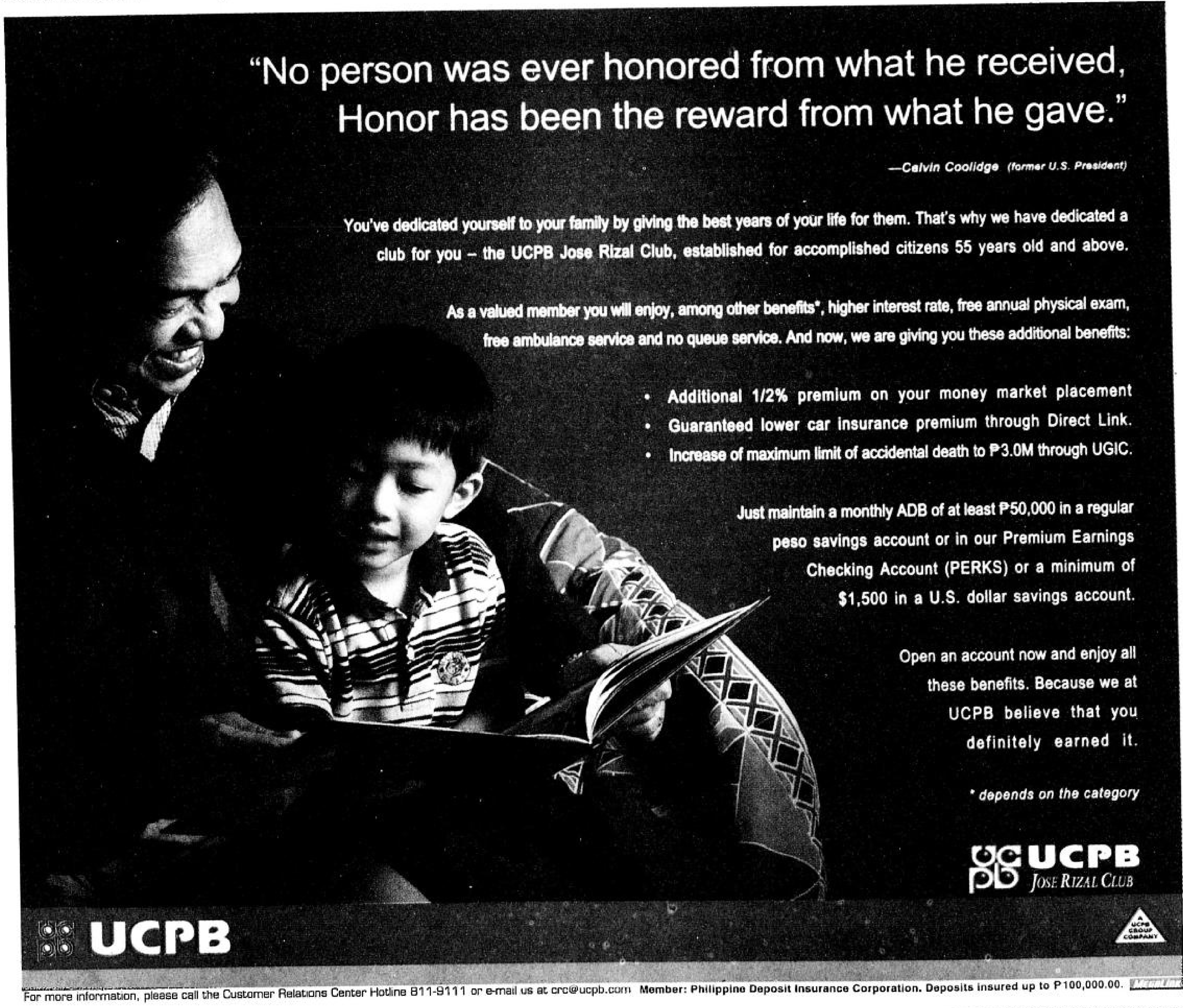
Among the business group that have expressed strong support for the BOI's move are the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Exporters' Confederation, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inc., and American Chamber of Commerce.

The rise in commercial disputes both at home and overseas have been traced to the globalization and the growing number of multinational corporations. In the Philippines, the past few years saw an increase in disputes between MNCs and their licensees or affiliates (especially in automotive assembly) who decry the takeover of their businesses they built for years without compensation from their foreign partners.

Arbitration is preferred over litigation because disputes are resolved more quickly at lower costs with little or no publicity as cases are heard in private and with fewer formalities.

Perez said commercial litigation has become a major cost burden to companies in the Philippines. The BOI is currently focusing on lowering the cost of doing business in the Philippines to attract new investors.

Perez said businessmen have a choice of whether to go through the BOI or the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc.(PDRCI) in resolving their cases. He said the BOI wanted the PDRCI to take a more active role in resolving commercial disputes.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—Calvin Coolidge (former U.S. President)

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Prosperity not yet off the hook, says SEC

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said Friday that its cease-and-desist order issued against Prosperity.com Inc. earlier this year was still in force and in effect.

In a statement, the government agency warned the investing public that any dealings and losses they might incur from transactions with Prosperity.com would be at their own risk.

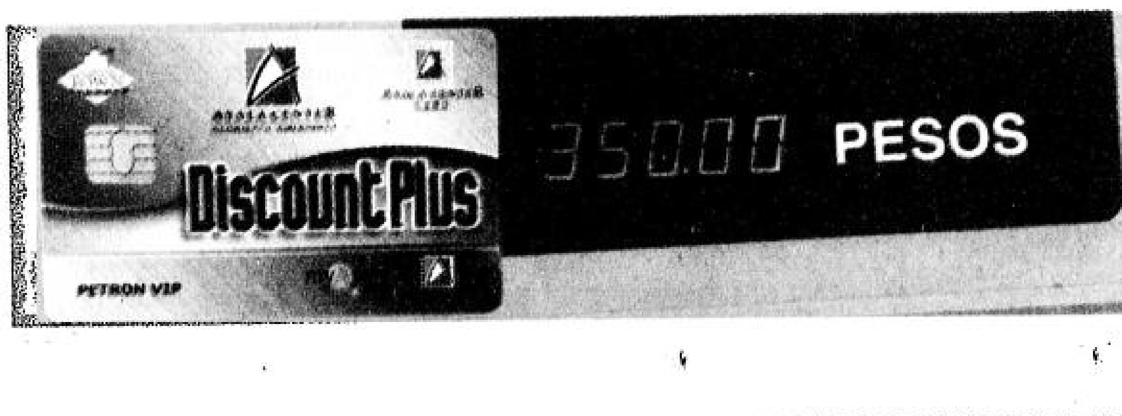
The SEC clarified that the decision of the 9th division of the Court of Appeals reinstating Prosperity.com's motion for reconsideration did not apply on or reinstate the temporary restraining order against the Commission from enforcing the CDO against the company.

The TRO earlier issued by the CA had a life span of only 60 days, ending on April 22, the SEC pointed out.

The SEC issued recently an order directing the company to show-cause why it should not be cited for contempt for operating in defiance of the permanent CDO issued earlier.

Also made permanent was the CDO against Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. for its involvement in a pyramiding scheme through the sale of unlicensed investment contracts.

Meanwhile, the SEC has asked Belkin Management Consultancy Inc. to show-cause why the company's primary franchise should not be revoked.



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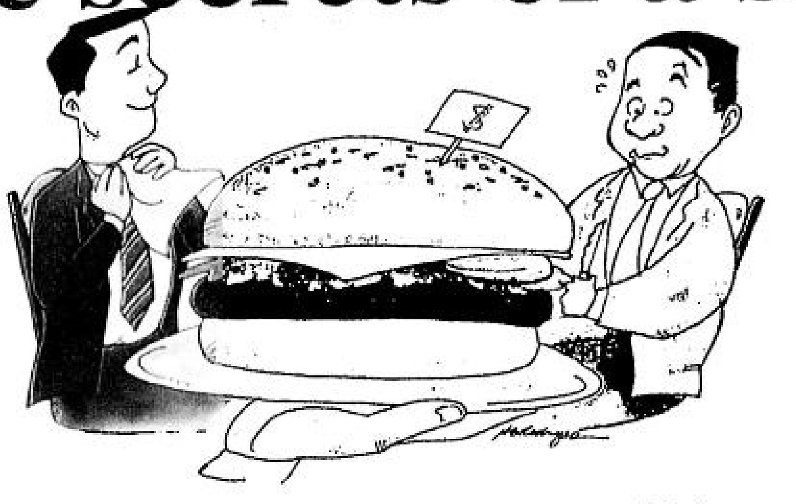
PETRON

BUSINESS Monday
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

NEGOTIATIONS ARE LIKE $30 HAMBURGERS

Uncovering the secrets of a successful deal

BY CHARLES J. ROUSSEL
Accenture



WHEN CEOs strike up a deal, they do it over dinner at a four-star restaurant. When the deal team meets to negotiate terms, they do it at the nearest airport hotel, in a windowless conference room, on a diet of $30 room-service hamburgers.

The $30 hamburger is an apt metaphor for most alliance negotiations: expensive, fast, full of additives and guaranteed to cause indigestion and high blood pressure. But negotiations need not be this way.

Successful negotiations are not about besting the other guy, reducing risk or even getting a contract signed. A contract is just the product, not the driver. Good negotiators are good because they produce a meeting of minds. They define how each party will contribute value and how contributions will be measured. They anticipate problems and agree on solutions, establish rapport and build trust.

Leave it to the lawyers to close loopholes. Your job as negotiator is to open things up, to envision and enable. This means giving yourself and your prospective partner ample room for discussion and accepting constraints reluctantly, whether structural, financial or political.

Work toward an open-ended agreement that can grow beyond its original boundaries. (Lawyers hate this idea. Alliance champions love it.) Document your shared vision and goals. Define governance policies to ensure smooth execution. Then worry about the contract (or have your lawyer worry).

Alliance negotiations are not for the fainthearted. A good negotiator strengthens the partnership; a poor one can poison the deal. Good or bad, the negotiator sets the tone for the relationship to come. The most skilled dealmakers do it by being systematic, structured and disciplined. Here's how.

Know the value of your assets

Think you have strong capabilities in marketing and distribution? How much are they worth to a partner? Have a promising new patent or other intellectual property? What is its revenue potential? Questions like these go to the heart of a deal. So do not wait until negotiations are under way to ask them. Know what your assets are worth before you begin.

It is natural to assume that what you have is more valuable than it really is, and more valuable than what the other side has; however, this is not always true. Painful, drawn-out negotiations often stem from an overinflated (or underinflated) sense of value.

The parties with the clearest, most objective understanding of what their assets are worth also have the strongest bargaining position. They will know exactly when to walk away and when to acquiesce.

Benchmark assets against the market. Look for internal and external precedents, the Internet is a surprisingly rich source of information. If you still are not sure, get outside counsel.

Bring experts into negotiations

In the traditional model, a business developer leads negotiations, drives a hard bargain and then hands the deal over to a line manager to get the relationship started. This model is dead. In the new model, whoever is responsible for running the alliance should negotiate the deal.

That is a big role, so if you are the negotiator, do not try to go it alone. You will need the assistance of a host of experts. When negotiations begin, ask colleagues with specific technical expertise, including research and development, supply chain and marketing, to talk with their counterparts in the other organization.

The job of these experts is to assess the prospect's capabilities (including personnel) and to help determine how best to integrate operations. Use other experts to perform due diligence, preferably by drawing on company profiles already in existence.

When due diligence is complete and final negotiations ready to begin, you and your counterpart should create a joint "memorandum of understanding" that captures the output of initial negotiations. This document is an essential reference for both parties (discoverable in legal proceedings) and should outline the alliance mission, core capabili-

UNCOVERING/ C2

Water firm president lets employees seek own level

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE MAN behind the water operations venture of the Ayala Group is no newcomer to the service industry.

Manila Water Co. president Antonio "Tony" Aquino spent 20 years of his career with the Ayala Group taking care of its malls and building administrations under the Ayala Property Management Corp.

AQUINO: Independent to meet goals.

"In some way there's a fairly close relationship with what I was doing in the past starting with the water operations system in the property management. Both tasks require good relations with people," Aquino says.

But it was during Aquino's 12-year stint at IBM Philippines that he started to learn crucial management principles and in developing a good working relationship with subordinates and clients.

When he moved to the Ayala Group, he developed the other aspects of his management style saying that the Ayala Group encourages senior management staff to be independent.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

He, in turn, gives his staff enough breathing space and latitude to use their own style in meeting the same set of objectives.

There is more leeway, he says, for an entrepreneurial type of management but policies and directions should be aligned with the set of goals set by the company.

"Working for the Ayala Group encourages one to be more independent. It is more decentralized but you have to follow a set of goals, which to me is a big advantage," he says.

Tony says the Ayala group's values of service and providing quality products are closely aligned to his own set of values, which basically revolves on striving to continuously improve the level of service and products rendered to customers.

"There is that goal to show concern for individuals and the aspiration to work for national development," he adds.

Tony has served as president of Manila Water, the private operator of Manila service areas in the east zone, for the past two years.

He faces difficult times as the privatized water industry is burdened by financial woes caused by the peso depreciation and limited resources due to the prolonged dry spell traced to the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Manila Water was not financially unscathed but it has so far survived the challenges. As president of the company, Tony wants to give credit to the operations and financial strategies he and his team have drawn and implemented.

Manila Water staff, for instance, is broken down into 70 territorial teams, designated to interface at the local government and municipal levels.

"We made sure that we would be able to go out in the field to personally see our service areas. We try to develop the plan and strategies at the supervisory level and then it is up to the staff assigned to their areas to develop innovative ideas on how these can be best implemented," Aquino says.

He adds that all these initiatives led to the company's positive performance, higher water volumes and reduced operating expenses.

Aquino describes himself as a hands-on manager who enjoys personally dealing with clients.

"At time it helps to be in the middle of it all specially in dealing with customers' complaints. It's good, it diffuses their anger when they recognize that the head of the company personally takes care of them," Aquino says.

The Ayala-owned Manila Water Services Inc. has already said that it will not cut back on its capital expenditures worth P1.5 billion this year to put up new water pipe lines, despite lingering financial woes.

"We will continue with our projects. We have developed a business plan that would cover our foreign exchange losses but it would require a lot of belt-tightening on our part," Aquino told the INQUIRER.

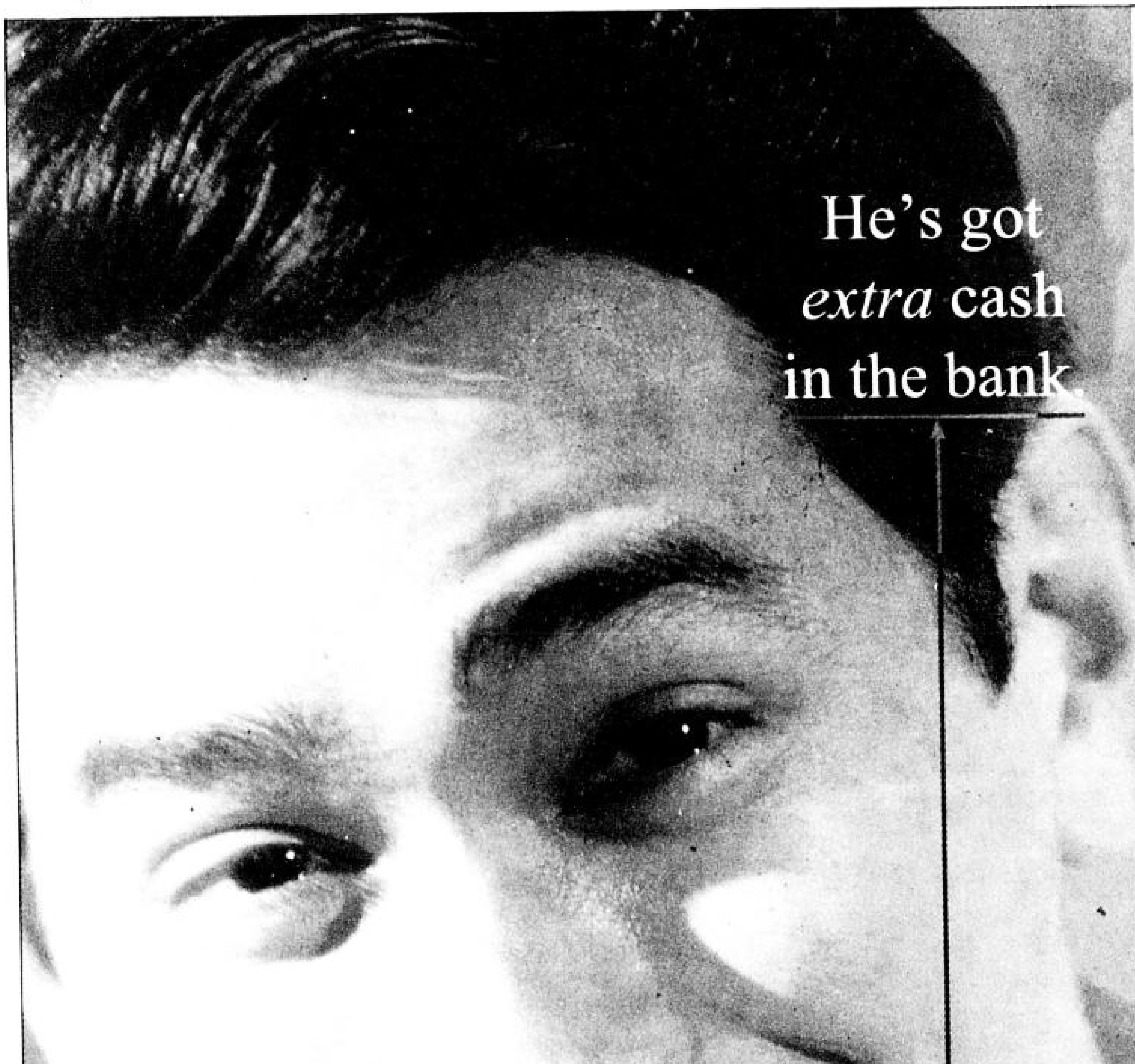
Manila Water's debt burden swelled to P11 billion due to the peso depreciation, from only P6 billion when it acquired the concession from the old Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Its financial problems were further aggravated by the delay in the implementation of its provisional increase in basic water rates amounting to 18 centavos per cubic meter.

"We are losing some P4 million to P5 million a month for every month of delay in the implementation of our basic rate increase," Aquino said.

The MWSS Board of Trustees and Regulatory Office have agreed in principle to grant Manila Water the 18-centavo increase, despite a related pending case in the Court of Appeals though the month of final implementation has not been

WATER/ C5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156 Valero cor
Villar Sts.
Salcedo Village,
Makati City

ALABANG
Casa Vicente
Building, Alabang
Commercial
Center

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Building,
Quintin Paredes St.,
Binondo, Manila

KATIPUNAN
Burgundy Place
Condominium
Katipunan Ave.
Loyola Heights
Quezon City

ORTIGAS
Strata 100 Bldg.
Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

LIBIS
G/F IBM Plaza
Building,
Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Ave.
Libis, Quezon City

QUEZON CITY
JSB Building,
Tomas Morato
cor. Scout Delgado,
Quezon City

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Gamaphel Bldg.
cor. Calderon &
Claudio Sts.,
Baguio City

DAGUPAN
Guanzon Bldg.
Perez Boulevard
Dagupan City

NAGA
Romar II Bldg.
Dinaga cor.
Caceres Sts.
Naga City

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Leaderless and manipulated

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel A.Alcuaz Jr

THIS is an analysis of the so-called Edsa III march to Malacañang based on my personal observation between 11 p.m. Monday April 30 to 4 a.m. Tuesday May 1, 2001.

At slightly before 11 p.m. last Monday night, I was driving along Shaw Boulevard finally done with work, dinner and my Good Samaritan activity. I was free to do whatever I wanted without having to worry about waking up early the next day.

It was a choice between going to Mendiola or gaining some insight into Edsa III. I figured that bringing myself to Mendiola to add one more body to protect Gloria and the Republic was not very useful. The PNP and the military should protect Malacañang.

When I got to Edsa, I turned right and to my surprise I was able to drive almost all the way to the Edsa Shrine. I turned around and parked near Poveda. During Edsa II you could not drive beyond SM, too many cars. Edsa III was definitely *masa*.

To prepare for my spying mission I took about P50 from my wallet and left my wallet in the car, who knows there might be pickpockets among the pro-Erap crowd. I thought of also leaving my cell phone but decided I might need it to call for help. I put it in a silent mode, answering a cell phone call would be a dead giveaway.

As I was walking to the rally site, I realized that I was not properly dressed for Edsa III. I was dressed for a date or an anti-Erap prayer rally. I had beige slacks and a dark blue shirt, just what the Cardinal asked us to wear. No time to go home to change into faded pants and *sando*. I decided to just roll up my sleeves to look a little bit more rugged and marched to the rally site.

I decided to start by going north (toward Cubao) on the Edsa flyover.

The first thing I noticed was that the flyover was not full. During Edsa II I remember that it was very hard to walk around the flyover because we were packed like sardines.

The flyover was only too deep at the railings except right in front of the shrine grandstand. What occupied most of the flyover were the stands of the water, corn, peanuts and even T-shirt vendors. I wanted to buy an Erap T-shirt as a souvenir but I was then poorer than most of the rallyists who perhaps still had their daily P300 (remember, I left my wallet).

There were Erap T-shirts for sale but practically no one wears one. This was unlike Edsa II where a large percentage of the crowd had Erap resign T-shirts and those who did not, had stickers or carried home made signs against Erap, Tessie and Miriam. The rallyists did not look like rallyists. They just stood around looking lost. They did not have fire in their eyes.

At the end of the flyover, I made a U-turn and walked south on the street level. The northern part was not crowded. It was more like a market place. I stopped by a stall that was selling pictures. So I asked for a Miriam picture to convert into a dartboard, the vendor just smiled, probably not a rabid Erap follower, basically a businessman at heart. As I walked toward Ortigas, the crowd got denser and I started to regret my adventure. My shoes were not stepping on asphalt, I was literally walking on mud!

One big difference between Edsa II and Edsa III was the lack of pretty young faces. There were women in the crowd. But they all looked tough, particularly the woman who overheard me talking to a vendor about Laarni's P1 million a day food budget. She angrily said *"walang bayaran dito."*

But as I was trying to make my way across the jam-packed crowd in front of the grandstand, I saw the only pretty face, she looked into my eyes and smiled. For an instance, I debated whether I should stay around and try to talk to her. But I figured she might have a jealous boyfriend. An anti-Erap spy in Cardinal Sin blue could easily get mobbed if discovered.

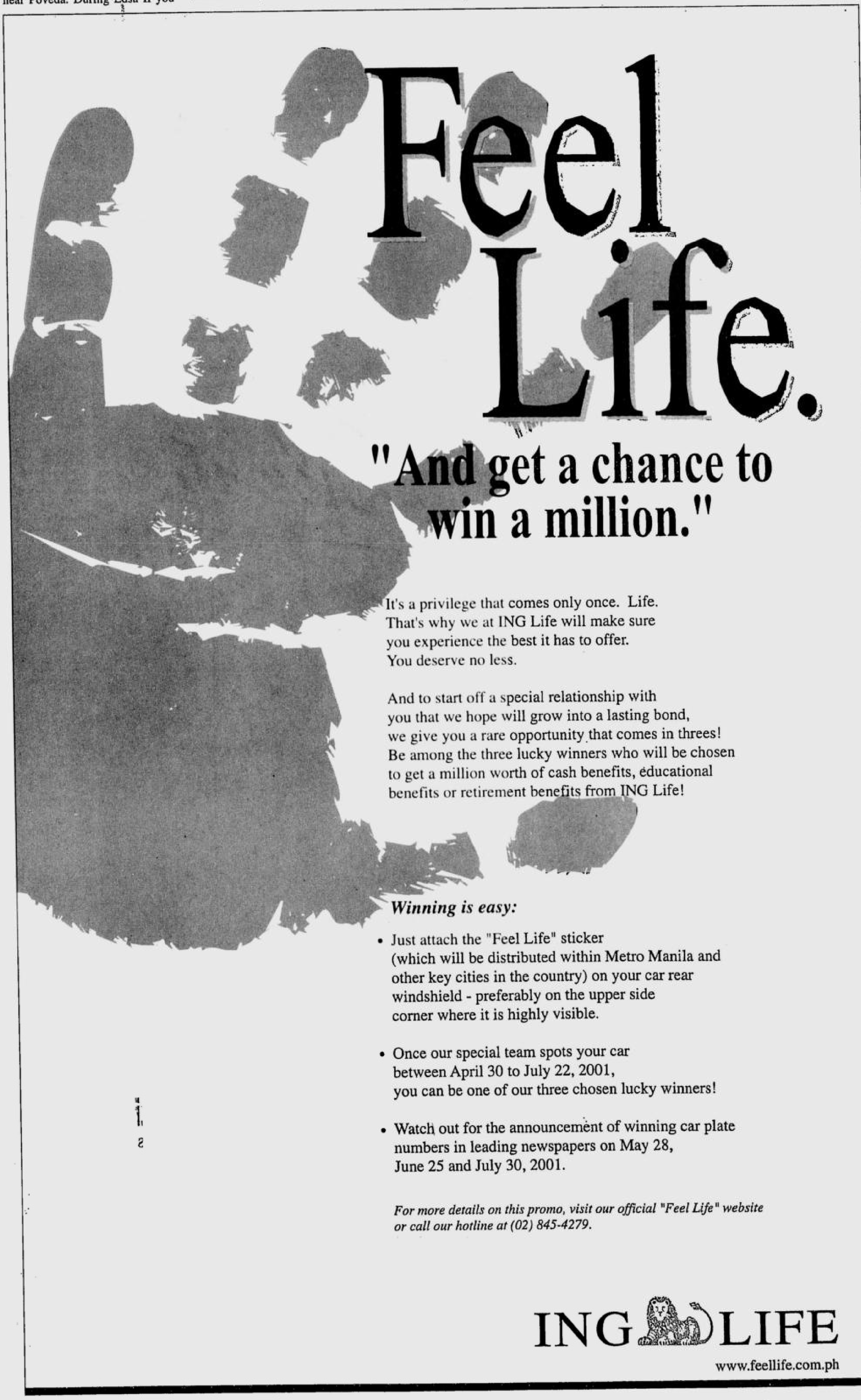
So I continued on my way stepping into a puddle of dirty water, my poor shoes! As I squirmed between *masa* crowd, someone shouted *lusob*, the emcee said, "*Lulusob tayo kailangan lang hintayin ang secret command, may secret command.*" At that time I thought that this remark was just more hot air.

The emcee then shouted, "Ibalik si Erap." I was surprised at how weak the response was (my quick quantification was a meek response from about 5 percent of the crowd). And unlike Edsa II's loud and continuous roars, "Erap Resign" or "Miriam Baliw," at Edsa III there was at most two repetitions followed by silence. This was definitely not how it looked on Network 25 TV.

My brother Linggoy said that when there is TV coverage, crowds automatically act when the camera and lights are on them. A TV camera shooting up to the flyover can give an impression of a very large crowd even when the flyovers are 95-percent empty.

Finally I made it through the jam-packed section to the southern part of the bus service road, which

LEADERLESS/ C3



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Uncovering . . .

(From page C1)

ties, operating principles, metrics and day-to-day guidelines for governing the relationship. Unlike a contract, this is a document of first, rather than last, resort.

When you begin discussing specific terms, bring in legal and financial counsel. Finally, as the agreement is codified, encourage shareholders and possibly outside advisors who are familiar with similar deals to weigh in.

Agree on the process

You will often face long odds in keeping negotiations positive. Begin by discussing with your potential partner the kind of process you want to follow. Explain the merits of shared vision and goals. Stress the importance of common criteria for measuring success.

Use scenario planning techniques. Discuss contingencies that might force a change midstream. For example, imagine you are a midsized biotech company partnering with a large pharmaceutical. You want access to the other company's clinical trials expertise and marketing resources.

The pharmaceutical company wants access to your promising new drug. What happens if your partner merges with another company during clinical trials, making your product redundant? Who pays for trials you cannot afford? Who owns data from the trials?

Consider such contingencies before consummating the deal, even if it puts a chill on the courtship.

Manage the environment

To keep the atmosphere efficient and aboveboard, follow some common sense guidelines. Meet on neutral ground or alternate meetings at each party's home turf. Make sure all key players are present. (No-shows by key decision makers is a classic stalling tactic, easily spotted and guaranteed to alienate.) If you expect difficulties, bring along an objective third party.

Begin negotiations with a well-informed position on these issues:

- The end goal and the process for getting there
- Resource sharing arrangements (who or what and for how long)
- Financial and in-kind considerations
- Intellectual property definitions and ownership
- Transfer pricing schemes for parent company inputs
- Contingency plans
- Preferred decision-making style and governance approach (who makes what decisions under which circumstances)
- Communication protocols, both internal and external, specifying frequency of communication, media and spokespeople
- Exit strategy

Finally, keep in mind cultural differences of style and pace. If you think the bargaining is going to be tough, be prepared to play hard and not take offense. If you expect a more indirect style, as is the norm in Asia, then respect this and allow extra time for discussion.

Transition quickly

Once a deal is signed and announced, the clock starts ticking. In today's economy, few companies can afford to pledge significant assets to an alliance without demonstrating results that confirm management's decision to enter into the partnership. Those results must usually be evident to the market within one or two quarters.

Use the momentum of a successfully completed negotiation to spur alliance managers into action. Long delays often occur before a new alliance is up and running because the right people were not available. Plan ahead.

(Charles J. Roussel, partner—Strategy and Business Architecture, Communications and High Tech, is based in New York, New York, U.S. (charles.j.roussel@accenture.com).)

Dole Philippines bags triple crown

Dole Philippines Inc. recently became the world's first agricultural company to simultaneously hold three major international certifications: ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000.

Stanfilco and Dolefil, the banana and pineapple divisions respectively of Dole Philippines, Inc., were awarded SA 8000 certification during the first quarter of this year. These two companies also currently hold ISO 9002 and ISO 14001 certifications.

The feat makes top banana producer Stanfilco the first company in the Philippines and the first food company in the world in the agrifood sector to hold what can be considered the triple crown: ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000. On the other hand, pineapple giant Dolefil is the first pineapple company in the world to hold all three certifications simultaneously and the first in the world with agriculture and food manufacturing activities.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her congratulatory message, commended Dole for its adherence to excellence in all aspects of operations. These international certifications "emphasize your leadership among companies of the world in maintaining internationally accepted high standards in areas of quality, environmental management and social responsibility," she added.

Dole Asia Ltd. president Paul Cuyegkeng explained that Dole's performance redounds to the benefit of all—its employees, the community where it is located, its consumers and the general public. "These most-coveted certifications reflect who we are and what we stand for," Cuyegkeng added.

Leaderless and manipulated

(From page C2)

was primarily occupied by vendors. I bought a small bag of excellent garlic peanuts and contemplated what I had learned. There were fewer people compared to Edsa II and much, much less spirit. I run through what I saw: bored people; no fire in their eyes; practically no Erap T-shirts; practically no homemade placards, headbands, armbands, etc.; very unenthusiastic cheering.

As I walked to my car I heard that Enrile had arrived. It must have been past midnight. I got to my car, drove home, and sent text to my friends, "Sleep well, I was at Edsa III. Their physical numbers are less and their spirit is much less." I took my advice and went to sleep.

At about 2:30 a.m., Linggoy woke me up with a text message, "Erap forces moving west on Ortigas and Santolan." I was wrong!

I hastily dressed, got into the car and drove to Ortigas via Shaw, Mabini and Wilson. The end of Wilson was closed. There was a row of soldiers in fatigue uniforms and shields acting as a barricade about 10 meters from Ortigas. I parked my car and walked to Ortigas and stood next to a pro-Erap marshal, he looked like a political leader.

No TV coverage

He struck up a conversation and said, "that President Macapagal made a mistake by promising to crush them if they went to Malacañang." He also complained that there was no TV coverage. He felt that there would be thousands more who would join. I pretended to agree and kept quiet. Not wanting to blow my cover.

I stood there for about half an hour and watched the thousands walk by. They looked left to Wilson Street and shouted, *"Sama na kayo."* One group pointed to me and said, *"Kay Gloria yan"* but kept on walking.

Behind the people came a few small vans and two or three huge dump trucks. I was concerned that these could break through the barricades but I had no numbers to call. The march stopped for a while and the marshal's worried about a blockade.

Was that a spontaneous march to Malacañang as the leaders of the opposition now claim? Definitely not. There was close and precise management on the street. About half a dozen marshals in white controlled traffic. The marchers were disciplined, they stopped when told to and moved on when given the go signal.

The marshals did not let marchers go in to Wilson Street, perhaps to protect the subdivision, most probably to prevent them from going home.

The chief marshal said, *"tuloy tuloy, derecho alam ninyo ang pupuntahan."* As the tail-end passed by Wilson I got back into the car and looked for a way to get ahead of the marchers. I drove to Aurora but could not find a safe place to park till I got to the corner of Aurora and Araneta Avenue diagonal to SM Centerpoint.

I stood there and waited among the marshals and managers of the march who were unseen in the darkness of the night except if you were right there next to them. A tall guy in a dark shirt was gleefully saying over the phone, *"matatapos na."* I saw several march managers in orange T-shirts with a common design. They were young, tall and slim unlike my friend at the corner of Wilson. This was again more evidence on how the Edsa III people who I thought had no spirit were guided on toward Malacañang.

Kids running

Kids were literally running toward Malacañang. It looked like fun to them. They did not look like college kids as in Edsa II. These were mostly high school and possibly grade school age kids. Many of them were probably out-of-school youth.

As I write this, I remember what the emcee said, *"Lulusob tayo mga bata muna, mga babae at susunod ang mga lalake."* I stood at the corner across Centerpoint for about an hour. First the kids came and much later the men and women. They must have stretched out for five or more kilometers.

But unlike in Ortigas they were walking briskly about two or three meters apart within groups. And groups were about 5 to 10 meters apart. By then half of the Ortigas crowd must have drifted away. There are many side streets in Aurora Boulevard and not enough marshals to herd them along to Malacañang.

How big was the crowd? At Ortigas they were walking about 15 abreast. If they were about a meter apart there would be 15,000 per kilometer. When you see a large crowd you may tend to overestimate it. If the Ortigas crowd stretched from Edsa to Santolan they could have been about 30,000 to 60,000. I think that less than 40,000 marched beyond Centerpoint.

Pro-Erap rally

I observed the pro-Erap rally and march between 11 p.m. of April 30 to 4 a.m. of May 1, Tuesday. One question keeps going through my mind: How can you move 60,000 people with little motivation and anger to storm the gates of Malacañang?

Through continuous insinuations from key opposition leaders who spoke at the rallies for six nights. The most prominently mentioned were Enrile, Miriam and Honasan. Their speeches must have conditioned them to believe that by storming Malacañang, they would improve their lives.

Through the patronage they have received overtime and in recent days from politicians. For an employed person, a packed dinner and P300 is not sufficient compensation to do something you don't want to do. But for very poor people they are grateful for these. They do not look beyond the food and money to ask where the money came from. Their loyalty and obedience is easily won. While the political leaders quickly distanced themselves from the march they had a well-oiled management system in place.

While I was at Edsa III the emcee:

Confirmed that there would be a march *(lulusob tayo)*,

Had a plan *"hihintayin lang natin ang command"*

Had a marching instructions *"una ang mga bata, susunod ang babae at lalake"*

On the move the marchers gained energy and spirit through movement, cheers and songs.

Marshals saw to it that the marchers moved on in orderly fashion and prevented excessive drop-outs along the way.

The march had heavy equipment prepared to breakdown barricades with large dump trucks.

All those politicians who now claim that they told the crowd not to march to Malacañang, why did you forget to tell your well-oiled management system not to guide the rallyists to Malacañang.

The marshals were in control, they could have easily directed the rallyists to go home. The march was without leaders because leadership requires shared objectives and goals. The politicians and candidates wanted to gain votes and perhaps grab power for themselves and immunity from charges some of them will face.

Some of the rallyists and marchers wanted greater respect and comfort for Erap. The extreme pro-Erap wanted to return him to power. Most wanted to express their disgust with their continued poverty. The so-called leaders were afraid to get hurt.

There definitely was a well-oiled system that manipulated and guided tens of thousands of people to Malacañang. Who organized, funded and directed the manipulation system? You know them.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. and member of the board of trustees of the De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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MOVEMENTS

SAP Philippines has new managing director

BLACK

IAN Black, an SAP and IT industry veteran with over 15 years' experience, principally in Asia, has been appointed SAP Philippines managing director.

According to SAP Philippines marketing and alliance manager Marivic Gamo, Black has consistently exceeded sales goals by 200 percent, working with both large and mid-market enterprises.

In the Philippines, he will be responsible for servicing and extending SAP's present client base of approximately 120 local and multinational corporations.

Known for his team-focused, consensus-driven style, Black has excelled at both motivating and recognizing high achievers, Gamo says.

Some of the organizations Black sold SAP licenses to in New Zealand included Telecom New Zealand, Air New Zealand, Mighty River Power—the nation's largest utility—and the New Zealand Defense Force. Clients in Australia included Transfield, that country's largest construction and maintenance services company, KPMG Australia, and the Australian Taxation Office.

Black also has experience in the IT sector in the United States, Indonesia and Great Britain. "But Asia offers the greatest opportunities for growth and development and I'm delighted to be here."

Asia Online names country manager

REYES

ASIA Online Philippines, the country's preferred Internet business solutions provider announced the appointment of Miguelito G. Reyes as country manager. He replaces Yu Ming Chin who is stepping down after heading the Manila company for five years.

The appointment of Reyes comes as Asia Online refocuses its Pan Asian operations on a range of core business areas, including professional services, managed networks and security, hosting, Web services, and business connectivity.

In line with this strategy, Asia Online Philippines has been streamlined into three functional groups: sales and marketing, Web development and e-commerce delivery, and administrative support.

These strategic changes are part of Asia Online's long-term plan to remain a dominant player in the Asian Internet industry and to grow its already strong portfolio of e-commerce customers in the Philippines, Reyes said.

New project manager for Midas-Kapiti

SAUNDERS

ROBIN Saunders is now project manager for Midas-Kapiti International (MKI). Saunders hails from the United Kingdom and joins MKI Philippines branch from MKI Product Center in Slough, England.

Saunders handles the project management for one of the key users of MKI's Universal Banking solution, called Equation. Saunders has worked for MKI since May 1993, and prior to that has been involved in Information Technology for many years.

In late 1998, Saunders worked for the Development Center in Manila. He became involved in the installation of Equation as an implementation consultant. He was recently promoted to his current position to handle the project for Security Bank.

Saunders is knowledgeable in the retail banking sector and is also involved in many technical issues on application interfacing.

Bankers toast network's new $1.4-M ATM investment

BANKING and information technology industry leaders gathered recently for the 11th anniversary celebration of MegaLink.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of $1.4-million investment to upgrade the ATM switch. Businessmen also witnessed the signing of partnerships and connections that would pave the way for new services to cardholders this year.

MegaLink decided to migrate to the Oasis Information Switching Technology (IST) software to better handle the 400,000 switched ATM and point-of-sale transactions that go through the system in a day.

"The migration to the new solution has reaped almost immediate benefits for the consortium. MegaLink switch capacity for processing transactions per second has increased more than tenfold. This means faster processing of transactions, especially during peak days like paydays," says MegaLink general manager Cris Santillan.

MegaLink signed a number of agreements on its anniversary, including partnerships with Yehey.com, Equitable Card Network, 1Time Payment UCPB and Union Bank's The Port. Soon, MegaLink cardholders can also pay for Pacific Internet, Union Bank Visa, ING Life Insurance and PhilOnline bills over the ATM or on the phone via PhoneLink. MegaLink is also exploring new services with ePLDT and SMART Communications.

The anniversary celebration also honored United Coconut Planters Bank chair and CEO Jeronimo U. Kilayko for his service as MegaLink chair. MegaLink president and Equitable PCIBank co-chair Antonio L. Go presented the award.

MEGALINK president and Equitable PCIBank co-chairman Antonio L. Go (left) and MegaLink general manager Cris Santillan hand over the service award for UCPB chairman and CEO Jeronimo Kilayko to UCPB first vice president Hermogenes Roxas (right).

KEPPEL Bank Philippines president Hoe Eng Hok (left) and LBC Bank president Maximo Malagar.

BANK OF COMMERCE executive assistant Art Manuel, president Raul B. de Mesa, MegaLink general manager Cris Santillan, Asiatrust Bank EVP Roland M. Garcia, Global Business Bank executive director Edward Go and MegaLink president and Equitable PCIBank co-chairman Antonio L. Go.

BANKERS Association of the Philippines director Francis Avellana, Philippine Clearing House president Francis Yap, Asiatrust Bank EVP Roland M. Garcia and DBS Bank president and COO Pascual Garcia III.

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GLOBALIZATION'S FAULT

Hotel industry zooms, but SMEs left behind

GENEVA—Although the hotel, catering and tourism sectors produce an estimated 3-4 percent of GDP in most of the world economy and employ approximately 3 percent of the world's total labor force, their workers earn at least 20 percent less than workers in other economic sectors.

ILO report

This is according to an ILO report prepared for a tripartite meeting of industry experts.

And while technology, deregulation and globalization are fuelling growth prospects in some up-market segments of the tourist trade, the prospects for smaller and medium-sized enterprises (which produce most of the employment benefits) are increasingly unclear.

The wage differential is due to the "higher proportion of unskilled workers" employed in the HCT sector, where working conditions are often characterized by part-time or low-paying jobs. "Up to half the workers in the industry are under 25 years old and up to 70 percent are women," the ILO report notes.

Migrant workers are another vulnerable group, with migrants concentrated in lower paid and less stable segments of the job market due to such factors as language or unfamiliarity with the host culture.

Often very young children work in the tourism sector, particularly in small, family-based enterprises, but often on their own as vendors or helpers.

"The worst form of child labor in tourism is seen in the sex trade," the report notes.

Though the problem is widespread, the report notes the increasing indignation of the international community at this exploitation and highlights "the increasing participation of international employers and workers' organizations and the World Tourism Organization in combating child prostitution in tourism."

Labor problems

Other labor problems affecting the industry are high staff turnover, irregular working hours, low levels of unionization (less than 10 percent) and intense pressure on human and environmental resources as tourism becomes increasingly competitive and reaches into far flung destinations where institutional resources are weak or inadequate.

The true scope of the economic and employment importance of tourism becomes even larger when one considers that each job in the sector generates an estimated one-and-a-half additional (indirect) jobs in tourism related sectors and in some regions tourism provides direct employment to as much as 10 percent of the work force.

If both direct and indirect employment are taken into account, "the total tourism related economy has been estimated to be as much as 11 percent of GDP and to employ 8 percent of the labor force worldwide," according to the World Travel and Tourism Council.

The ILO report portrays a rapidly growing industry at "about 3 percent annually," with strong regional differences.

In recent years, the highest annual growth rates have been registered in South Asia (9 percent), the Caribbean (7 percent) and Eastern Europe (5 percent). In contrast, Europe is growing by around 2 percent and Asia Pacific by only 1.4 percent in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

Cross-border tourism has grown faster than tourism overall, according to the ILO report, and is expected to increase by 4.5 percent over the next 20 years.

700 million tourists

"During the year 2000," the report notes, "almost 700 million tourists crossed a border and spent over US$500 billion while abroad."

The deregulation of air transport and resulting fall in airfares is a major contributing factor to the globalization of tourism. "In developing countries no less than 80 percent of international tourists arrive by air."

The quality of tourism services is also changing rapidly, with travel becoming a regular part of the lifestyle of populations in wealthier nations and the better off in developing countries, the ILO report finds.

Market niches

Trips are becoming shorter but more frequent, with new market niches, such as nature tourism often yielding substantial benefits to populations in remote rural areas where agricultural incomes tend to be declining.

According to the ILO report "the spread of information technologies enables tourism providers to cater more efficiently for a more diversified clientele." However, these benefits are not evenly spread.

The report cites concerns about "the relatively low participation of developing countries in electronic distribution and reservation systems run by large air carriers, which do not sufficiently take into account the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)."

While large hotel chains are constantly increasing the scope and efficiency of their operations through mergers, franchising arrangements and increased linkages between air carriers, hotels, travel agencies and retail distributors, "independent enterprises tend to be left behind," according to the ILO report.

SMEs

This is troublesome because it is precisely the SMEs that "employ at least half the sector's workforce and represent a majority of its enterprises."

One of the major points of discussion of the ILO tripartite meeting is expected to be the huge and increasing training requirements of the industry, which are seen as increasingly vital to its successful development.

While the report recognizes that "the hotel and restaurant industry is very conscious that human resources are becoming more valuable to the sector," additional efforts are needed to make working conditions more attractive to a range of age groups.

Among the more positive developments, the report cites "a trend toward greater investment in staff training," with up to one percent of revenue being earmarked for this purpose.

In some cases, the training requirements are especially complex, as, for example, in the exploitation of delicate cultural environments in natural parks, which require "the proper involvement of local populations to guarantee their preservation."

Tourism in agricultural areas is another area that requires "regulation in order to reduce or prevent unfair competition with professional lodging," recognizing at the same time its contribution to sustainable livelihoods.

NATIONWIDE COMMUNICATION BACKBONE PR
BETWEEN
PNB AND DESTINY

PNB president Feliciano L. Miranda Jr. (third from left) and Destiny president David S. Lim (fourth from left) during the recent contract signing between the Philippine National Bank and Destiny Satellite Corp. The project aims to improve PNB's daily online services using Destiny's communications expertise.

Water firm president lets employees seek own level

(From page C1)

these additional charges.

Meantime, Aquino has assured that Manila Water will continue to operate under the concession agreement signed with the MWSS and he will employ the management expertise that he has under his belt to keep the people working toward that goal.

He says the Ayala Group has no plans of relinquishing its water services agreement despite the financial difficulties.

Manila Water currently distributes water in the east zone, which include areas in Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay, and parts of Marikina, Taguig, Pasig, Pateros and Quezon City.

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Airline claims new standard in first-class travel

CHINA Airlines recently introduced what it described as state of the art technology to provide stress-free comfort to air travel with its fleet of new Airbus A340s.

The new four-engine A340s, which serve the Manila-Taipei-Taipei-Manila route, were powered by quiet CFM56 turbofan engines.

"With the A340s' new navigation, communication, aircraft performance calculation, auto-pilot, automatic throttle and aircraft systems displays, the Global Position System and Future Air Navigation System have become more efficient and designed for maximum safety," the brochure on the new Airbus A340s explained.

China Airlines also introduced a new standard in first class comfort and luxury by replacing traditional seats with a new design concept, offering its first class passengers personal space where he can relax and not be disturbed by other passengers.

The First class cabin will have only eight seats. Passengers can recline their seats by 100 degrees for maximum comfort and they can also use satellite, telephones and other amenities not found in all other airlines.

Even the economy section was improved.

China Airlines introduced the first swing-type seats and the entire section was reduced to only 230 seats to provide better access to the aisles and more room to stretch out.

China Airlines' Manila-based station manager Kuo Tai Sheng says that the airlines ordered for seven more A340s to be used for the Manila-Taipei-Taipei-Manila route.

TWO FLIGHT attendants seated at the new Airbus A340 with its improved first class section.

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ROGER MARGALLO

THE NEW first class cabin will have only eight seats to provide maximum comfort and luxury to guests.

Johannes . . .

(From page C8)

He finds the Philippines the easiest country to work in.

"It is much easier to make friends here than in other places. People are more westernized and there's no language barrier unlike in other countries where there still are certain limitations," he says.

He explains that the only reason why he is based in Bangkok and not Manila is that the operations in Thailand are much bigger in terms of the work force although the Philippine operations generate more income for the airline.

Running the show

KLM, he says, maintains a lean organization. Thus, for the whole of Asia, the airline has only five managers, one each for the following country groupings: Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (Johannes' area of responsibility); Hong Kong, Taiwan and China; Japan and Korea; Australia and New Zealand, and Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

A lean organization, he says, ensures the efficiency of the airline's operations in these areas.

From Bangkok, Johannes is practically running the shows in the Philippines and Vietnam via the Internet and through a management team consisting of himself, a marketing/sales person and a finance man.

The three take turns in visiting the countries of their coverage. Johannes, for one, comes to the Philippines at least every three weeks and when he is away, one of the two other members of the team will surely be here.

This system, he says, works because of the competence of the local experts in charge of the day-to-day operations. KLM maintains sub-management teams for their respective areas of coverage, including the Philippines.

Each sub-management team is composed of the sales manager in charge of the commercial operations, the service manager and the finance manager.

Away but hands-on

Although he operates via the Net, Johannes still describes himself as a hands-on manager. He keeps himself abreast of nearly every detail of the operations here by asking people a lot of questions.

"It is not that I don't trust the local experts because I do, after all a manager is only as good as his people; I ask around because I am interested to know and learn about everything in our operations," he says.

Decisions concerning the Philippine operations, Johannes explains, are made based on mutual agreement, especially if they concern people.

"We meet, exchange ideas, talk about the pros and cons of the issues concerned and we decide. It's not the top-to-down decision-making approach," he adds.

No serious problem

Johannes was quick to add though that as far as the Philippine operations are concerned, he has yet to encounter any serious problem.

"Our only biggest concern here is the limited flight slots we were given. We want to fly to and from the Philippines every day but we are allowed to fly only four times a week," says Johannes.

"Our policy is to fly as often as we could to major destinations. The Philippines is considered a major destination, so we want to fly here often," he says.

Private life

Despite a tight day-to-day work schedule and the regular visits to the Philippines and Thailand, Johannes finds time to play tennis, go swimming and cycling during his free time particularly on weekends.

The Bangkok traffic, he says, gives him the time to catch up on his reading and make his calls, whether official or personal, in the car on his way to the office or from the office to home.

Although he is still enjoying his stint in Asia, Johannes has started entertaining thoughts not of retiring but of going back to and settling down in KLM's base in Holland for his kids' sake.

"While there had been no problem in the past when they were still very young, the kids are now starting to ask 'how about our friends?' whenever the possibility of transferring to another place of assignment crops up," Johannes says.

Sony Bank . . .

(From page C8)

lined with icons for "money management advice," "customer service" and "loans." A click takes users to a line-graph that shows the ups and downs of projected lifetime savings as people buy a home or have children.

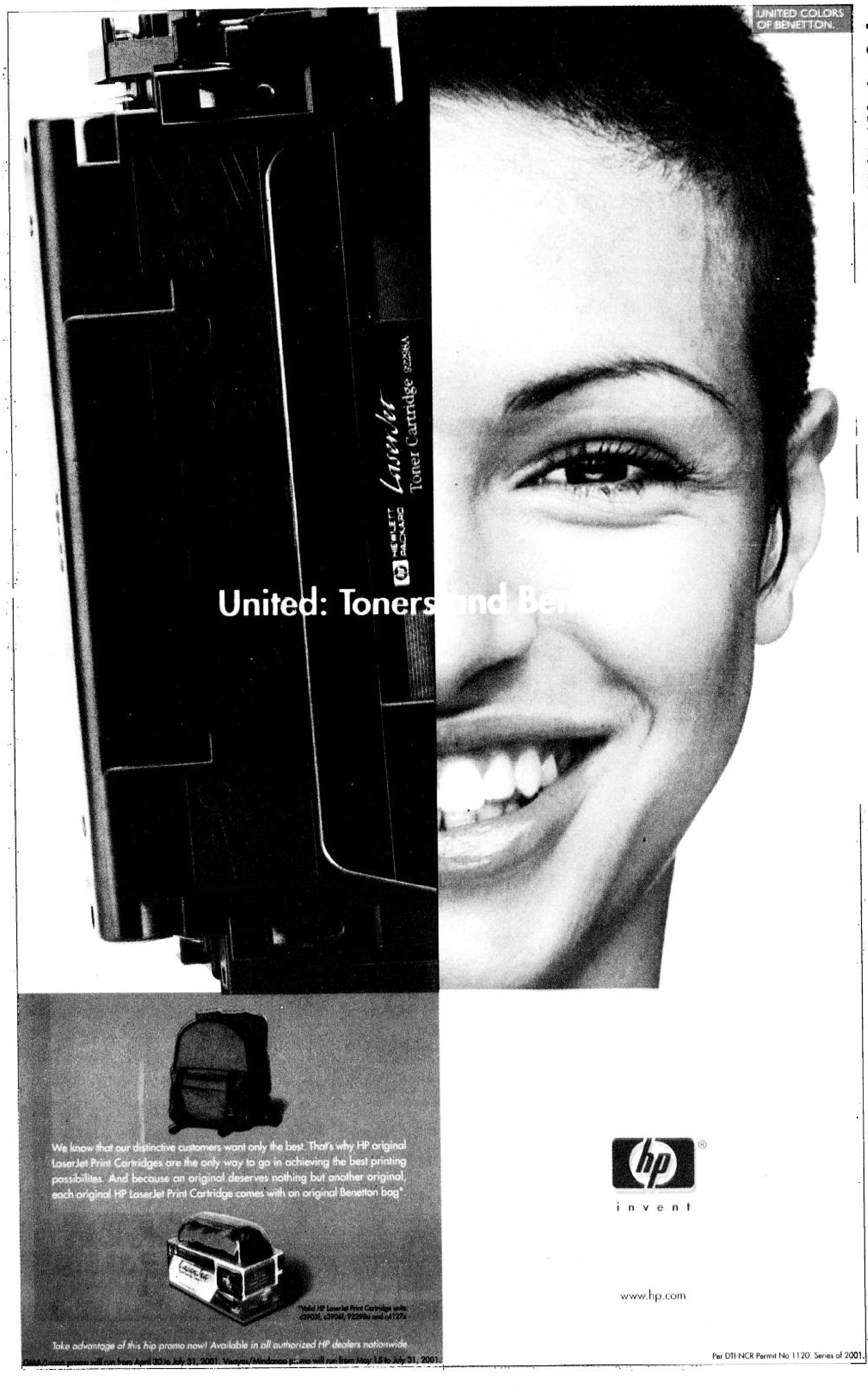
Not everyone is optimistic about Sony's prospects in an untested territory like banking.

For money management, asset allocation and other financial knowledge, Sony will be relying on J.P. Morgan, which owns 4 percent of Sony Bank. Sony owns 80 percent and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. owns 16 percent.

"Banking doesn't really match Sony," said Yukie Saito, analyst at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, adding that Sony will face increasingly tough competition in electronic banking.

The Japanese government recently awarded banking licenses to two non-banking businesses—Sony and retailer Ito-Yokado, which runs 10,000 outlets including 7-Eleven convenience stores. IY Bank opened Monday at five locations with plans to expand gradually nationwide.

From the start, Sony Bank account holders will be able to use ATMs at 1,100 Sumitomo Mitsui branches and 1,000 convenience stores run by am/pm Japan Co., all mostly in urban areas. **AP**



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NO REAL HOMETOWN

Johannes: KLM's nomad in the sky

By Corrie S. Narisma

HE MAY be considered a nomad, wandering around all his life.

Roger Emile Johannes, KLM's country manager for the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, says traveling is his second nature. He has been doing so since he was a child.

He is a Dutch national (whose roots can be traced to the Netherlands) born in Jakarta, Indonesia and raised in the Philippines where he finished high school. He obtained his business administration degree from a university in Athens, Greece.

JOHANNES: Traveling is my second nature.

In his 25 years with KLM, Johannes was stationed in at least seven countries, staying in each country for two to four years. The list does not include the countries that he supervised and visited from time to time.

His longest stay in one place, he says, was his 11-year stint in the Philippines when he was still a kid. He grew up here because his father, who also worked for KLM, was stationed in the Philippines from 1962 to 1973, initially as the airline's marketing/sales manager and, later, as the country manager.

His father brought the entire family wherever he was assigned by KLM, so Johannes and his siblings grew up with "no real hometown."

But he doesn't consider this a major setback. In fact, the frequent trips overseas and the different environments he had lived in taught him how to adapt easily to any culture, a characteristic deemed very important for a man working with an airline.

KLM family

Johannes' exposure to KLM's operations since he was a kid lured him into following in the footsteps of his father. He had wanted to become a pilot but this dream did not materialize because of circumstances beyond his control.

He took a different route, taking up business administration in college, and aimed at administrative positions also at KLM.

He joined KLM in 1976, the year when his father, who joined the airline right after World War II, retired.

Just like his father, Johannes brings his family on his overseas assignments. His family now lives in Bangkok while Johannes takes care of KLM's operations in the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Like him, his children—now nine and seven—do not find it difficult to move around and live in homes away from home.

But of all the places he has been to, Johannes feels more at home in tropical countries, particularly Asia.

JOHANNES/ C6

Sony Bank hopes to woo Japanese to invest wisely

TOKYO—Japan's notoriously inefficient and indebted banks are getting powerful competition from an unlikely rival—Sony Corp.

The Tokyo electronics giant enters the banking business next month offering long-term loans, money-management advice and automatic teller machines at convenience stores.

Sony will be going against much of this nation's banking tradition. Instead of the old-style branches at every corner that close their doors after office hours, Sony Bank, set to open June 11, will be strictly an Internet bank. Its slogan: "Do it your style."

Profits

In a presentation to reporters Thursday, Sony Bank officials acknowledged they aren't counting on turning profits for the first couple of years.

But they insist Sony's entry into banking is aimed at changing the way Japanese save and invest—and perhaps even get the nation's economy growing again after more than a decade of slowdown.

Japanese are among the world's biggest savers with 1.4 quadrillion yen ($11 trillion) in savings, bonds and other assets.

But many don't see banks as much better than money hoarded under a futon mattress. Banks here offer 0.02 percent in annual interest on regular accounts.

Interest rates at Sony Bank won't be much better at 0.05 percent. But Sony says its knowledge about consumer tastes will be a big plus in reaching out to a new breed of cyber-savvy Japanese, eager to learn about wise long-term, low-risk investments for their money.

Newground

That will require breaking new ground. Japanese have a deep distrust toward investment trust funds and stock trading compared to Americans.

"Japanese in the past have viewed banks as no more than a safe," Sony Bank president Shigeru Ishii said. "We want people to start thinking about banking services."

Japanese banks are also suffering serious image problems for taking years to clean up their bad debts estimated at about 48 trillion yen ($393 billion).

Sony Bank software called "MoneyKit" is

SONY/ C6

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Mehan Garden bites the dust

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE OVERWORKED theory about Filipino *horror vacui* is no cliché after all. The theory is about the Filipino fear of empty space that explains our predilection for filling up every square centimeter of available space with something. Sometimes it really doesn't matter what fills the space so long as it is not vacant. The space in question can be a living room, a printed page, a cramped jeepney hood, an embroidered barong tagalog, or a groaning buffet table decked out for a fiesta. Less is more has never been acceptable. More and much more is really what we're talking about.

The *horror vacui* bug has bitten Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. First, he proposed to transfer the City College of Manila from the former PNB building on Escolta to Mehan Garden. Now he plans to put up the "Park and Ride" building, a public transportation waiting shed cum shopping area cum parking building. The project is expected to eat up the remaining open space of Mehan Garden that the City College will leave behind.

Say goodbye to one of Manila's endangered open spaces. It is endangered no more. It is on its way to becoming history.

But Mehan Garden has a history. Originally established in 1858 as the Jardin Botanico, Mehan Garden was the first zoological and botanical garden in Manila. In 1913 the park was renamed Mehan Garden after John C. Mehan, the park superintendent.

For those who have forgotten, Mehan Garden is the open space off Plaza Lawton (across the Manila Post Office), bounded by Taft Avenue, the Metropolitan Theater and reaching close to the Manila City Hall. It is a great location for an inner city park.

MEHAN/ p.D2

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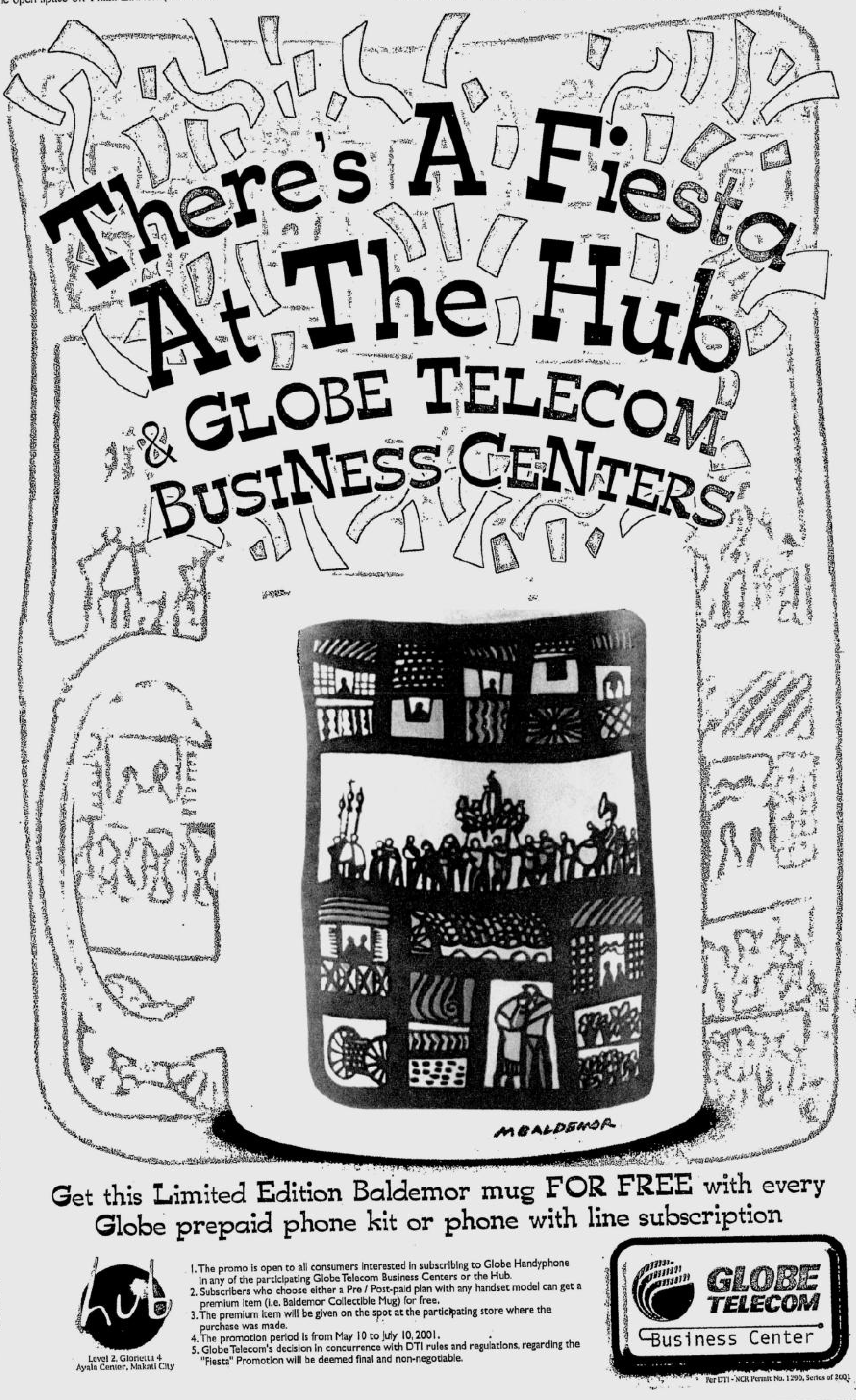

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Mehan Garden bites the dust

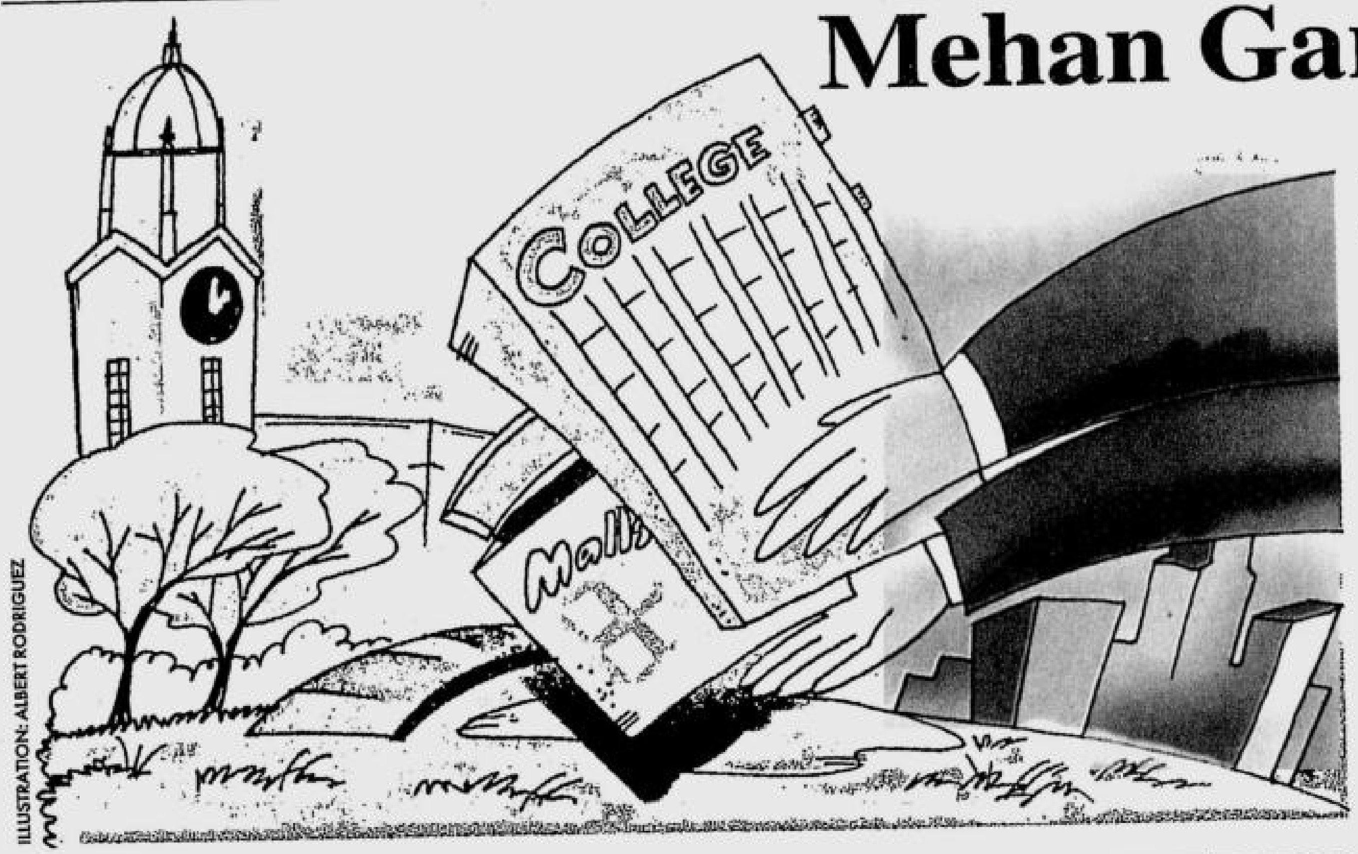

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

After constructing the architectural monstrosity on Plaza Miranda and toppling down the art deco jewel Jai-alai Building, Lito Atienza trains his wrecking ball at a section of Intramuros

(From page D1)

Recent years have not been kind to the place. Today Mehan Garden is down and nearly out. Everyone has forgotten it, leaving it to become a poor excuse for a public open space. Nobody really goes there, but then why should anyone since it is not a pleasant place to be in? Trees valiantly try to grow in the polluted area. Unkempt grass struggles for life amid a sea of cracked concrete. Plastic bags litter the area. There is absolutely no human life in the area. It is desolate. The only sign of life in the area is at the Manila car pound, where traffic-violating vehicles are towed and sometimes abandoned. Haggling over fines is the prevailing human activity around there.

A colleague observed, "The Mehan Garden is the armpit of hell; half of it is a construction site for the City College of Manila, and the other half is a graveyard for abandoned cars. Mehan Garden looks like the Belgian Congo after the Belgians fled."

Obviously Mehan Garden is not much of a place. It could become a place again with good scrubbing, minimal refurbishment and some maintenance work, a small effort to restore a much-needed park for Manileños to vent their pressures amid greens rather than more concrete.

Architecturally significant

Mehan Garden is not an urban desert. It is surrounded by architecturally significant buildings. The acknowledged centerpiece of the area is the venerable Metropolitan Theater, a beleaguered 1930s masterpiece of decaying Philippine art deco architecture. The Park and Ride building obstructs the view of one of its more important facades.

The Office of the Ombudsman (formerly MWSS Building) on Arroceros Street is another noteworthy prewar building in the Mehan Garden area. Closer to City Hall, the abandoned GSIS building is waiting for the proper architectural reuse. The Arroceros Forest Park around the corner from Mehan Garden is a precious green space that, God forbid, should fall prey to Atienza's urban *horror vacui*.

After publicly stating his pro-conservation stand and acknowledging that it is only through preserving its heritage spaces that Manila can ever hope to regain its prominence, Atienza toppled the Jai-alai building, an architectural icon, and is now burying the green of Mehan Garden under concrete. His acts show a cavalier attitude toward heritage spaces and open areas in the congested city.

If Manila is trying to win back the glory that has gone to Makati, building Park and Ride and the City College in Mehan Garden is not going to do it.

With the Park and Ride and City College, say goodbye as well to one of Manila's most historic sites. Their foundations will disturb what is acknowledged to be Manila's richest archaeological treasures. The National Museum has declared the area an archaeological site, but budget constraints have prevented its large-scale excavation.

Mehan Garden, located at the center of the area stretching from Puerta Parian of Intramuros to the Arroceros Street banks of the Pasig, is in the site of the old Parian. The Parian is the area where Spanish authorities quartered the Chinese in colonial days, making sure that when they were shut out of Intramuros at night, they still remained within cannon shot.

The foundations of the Parian are surely still under the Mehan Garden grounds. Not only that, the many unexcavated archaeological artifacts buried beneath the grounds may piece together still-unknown chapters of the history of Manila. Getting to ultimately excavate for archaeological artifacts depends, of course, on whether anyone thinks it is important to have a better knowledge of the history of Manila.

Pride of place

Knowing more of his city's history might just fill the desperate need for the Manileño to feel pride of place for his city. In cities like Paris, the archaeological excavations that reveal centuries-old foundations, ruins and artifacts from the city's past have become museums popular with residents and tourists.

In contrast, we in Manila build over a rich archaeological site. There goes history and pride of place for Manila residents, not to mention improving the quality of urban life.

There is a growing concern over the disappearance of historical sites that vanish in the name of progress. Mehan Garden is one such endangered site. The City College should go somewhere else. There are many empty structures in Manila that are waiting to be reused. In fact, the college is now in an Escolta building that is ripe for preservation and adaptation. The excuse for moving the college out is that the existing building is structurally unsound, a standard finding by engineers not sensitive to adaptive reuse. Why not fix and reuse the existing City College building?

How about decongesting Plaza Lawton? It has suffered too much over the years. It was sliced up by flyovers, then lost its landmark Insular Ice Plant to the LRT. Now a Park and Ride building will scar it some more. The Park and Ride is a needed facility for Manila, but there are many other locations where it could fit without destroying what little is left of a Manila landmark and precious open space.

Jai-alai buildings can disappear and City Colleges can take over open spaces like Mehan Garden because of the lack of a comprehensive legal framework that protects registered heritage sites and cultural landscapes. The Jai-alai issue proved that without any legal framework, there is no way to protect our national patrimony.

The Heritage Con[illegible]e Philippines is leading a lobby for the Senate and Congress to pass a landmark law that will preserve our built heritage and cultural landscapes.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

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Fusing sight and insight in Lamarroza's landscapes

By Gino Dormiendo

PRUDENCIO Lamarroza is in a unique position to paint the abundant landscapes of the country that are fast vanishing in the course of progress.

All his life, Lamarroza has closely observed the sacred grove of Philippine rural life. He was born in the bucolic farming community of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, whose hardy peasant folk and their livelihood would later figure prominently in his work.

As a devoted artist who has constantly experimented with wide-ranging techniques, Lamarroza first gained prominence with works in mixed media, including brass sheets, molding paste, solidified polyester and canvas. His later works—the "Laoag (Light)" series—were his own versions of op art in serial abstract motifs executed in a grid pattern, which created the optical perception of light emanating from the painting.

In the mid-'70s, Lamarroza began his "Amburayan Queen" series, its central image consisting of the regal yet ever-changing Amburayan queen, symbol of the life-sustaining force in the mountain-river landscape dying as a result of nonstop mining. With an array of resources at his disposal, he ventured into surrealist terrain, combining realist elements and deconstructing them to reveal the artist's autonomous domain.

In his recent exhibit at the Art Center of the SM Megamall, titled "Landscape, In Memory," Lamarroza has come full circle. He returns to the realist mode, surprising Lamarroza aficionados who have become familiar with his style, a merry fusion of surreal and semi-representational imagery.

Tribute

The exhibit pays tribute to the

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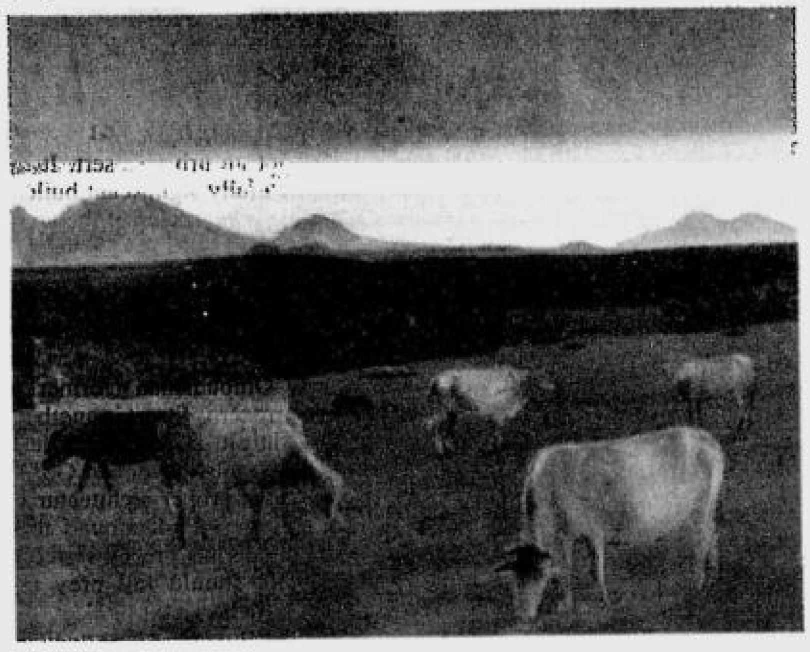

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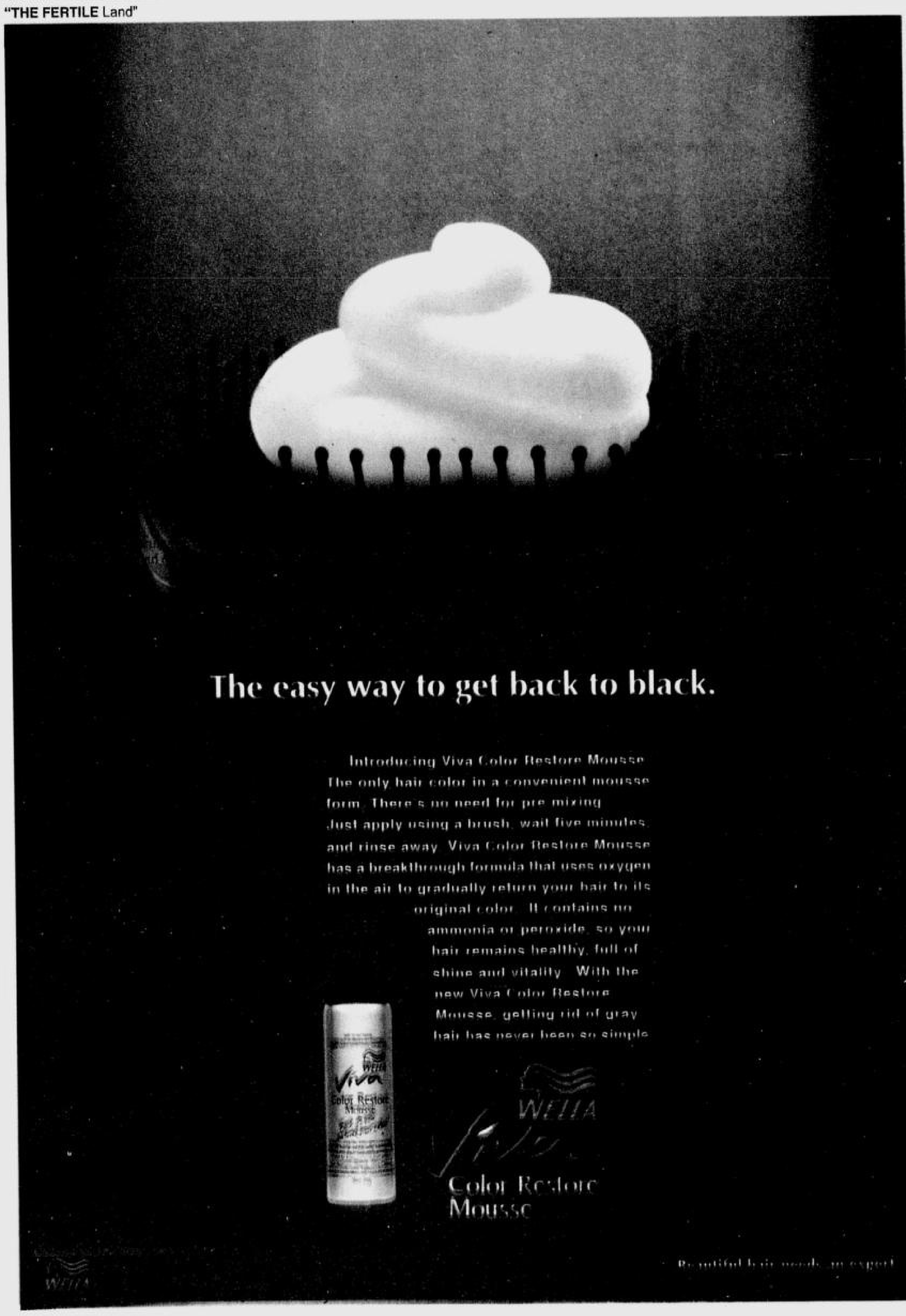

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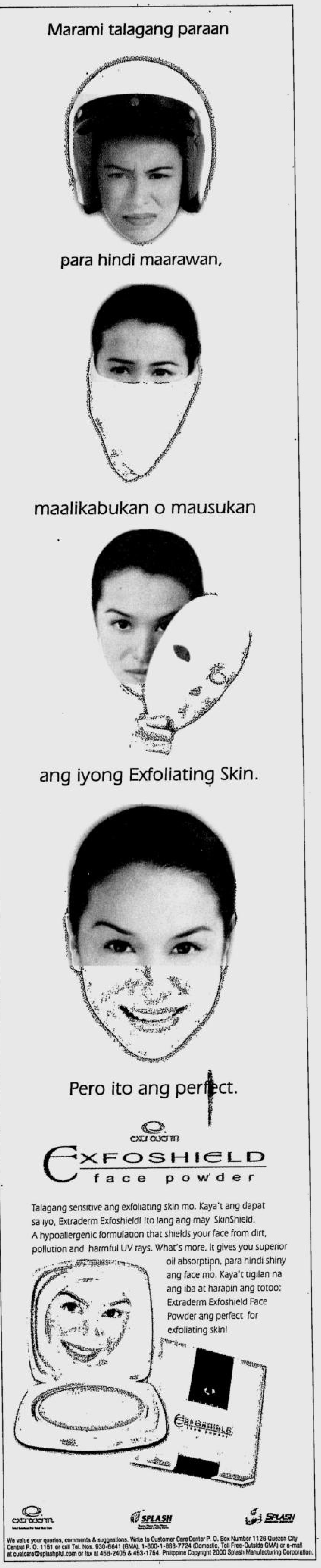

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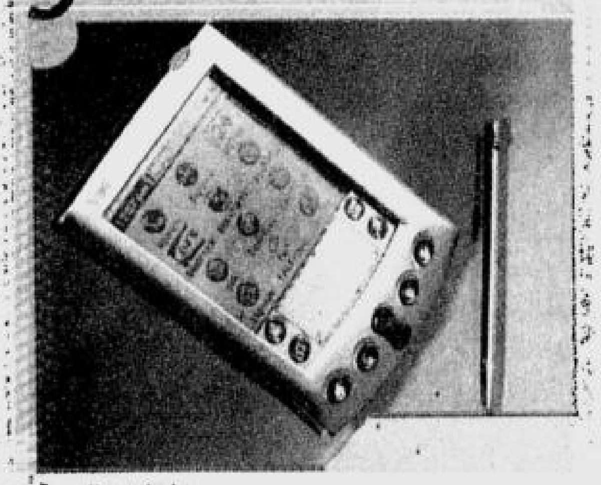

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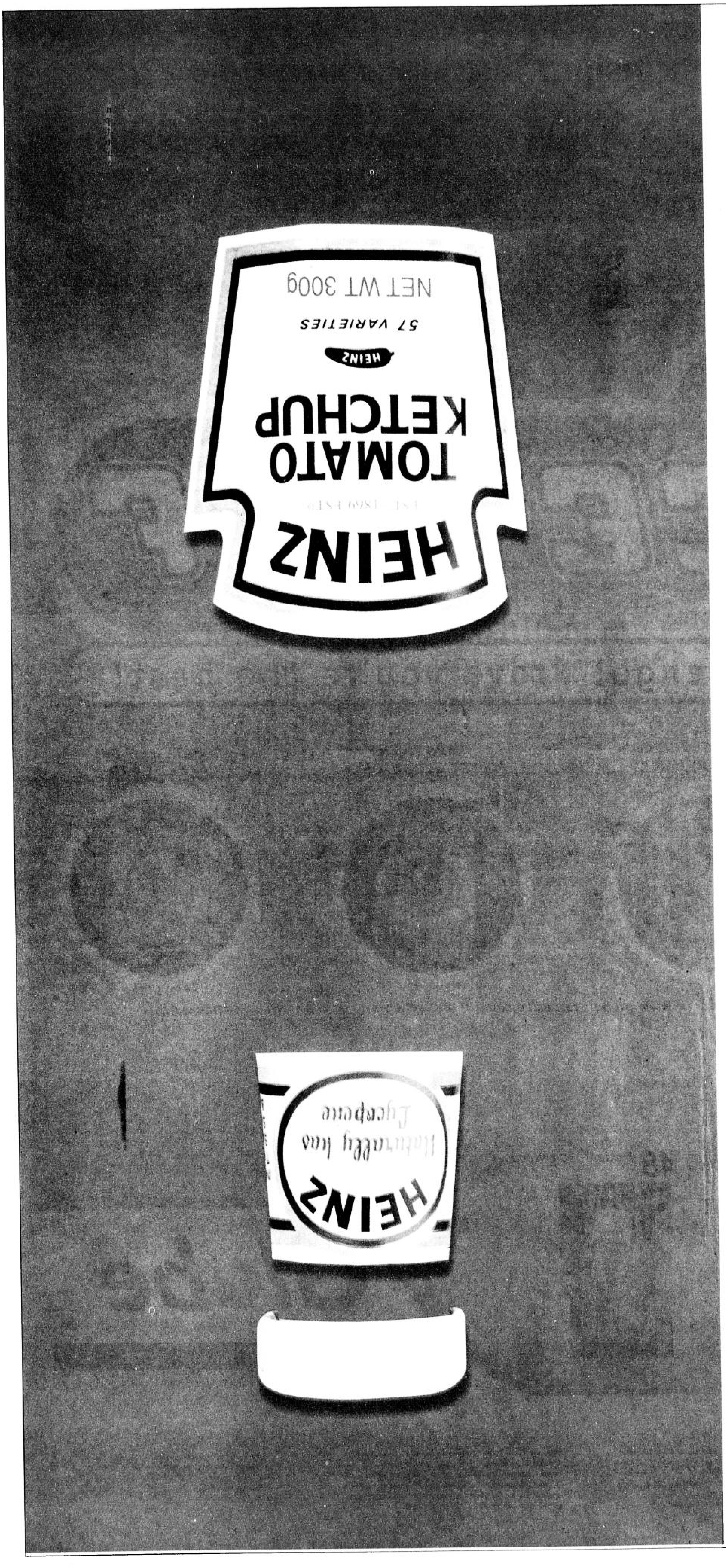
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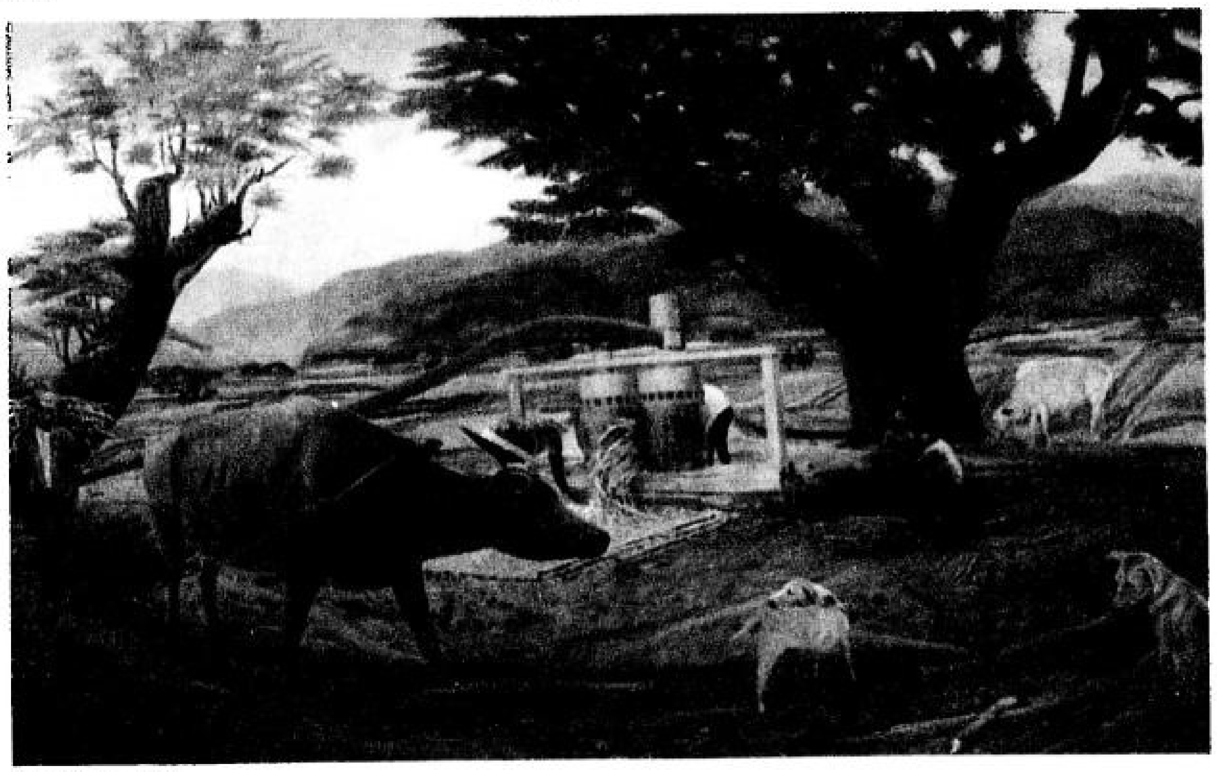
Fusing sight and insight in Lamarroza's landscapes

(From page D3)

eminent landscape painters of the 19th century, integrating social and natural history and depicting the ecosystems—communities of plants and animals that depend on a particular environment or habitat for life—in both paintings and photographs.

Many of the scenes were, in fact, first captured as photographic images, a tool that comes handy when the drudgery of jotting down elements and remembering details begins to set in. The itinerant artist, who is himself an able lensman, has traveled around the country, starting from Aparri, through Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte, revisiting the Amburayan region, later trekking to the lakeshore region of the Southern Luzon provinces of Batangas and Laguna, before journeying to the Bicol region.

In these recent works, we see the artist's constantly evolving cosmology, from surreal to semi-representation and finally metamorphosing into a new kind of naturalism borne by the belief that nature takes primacy over art.



"**WINE** Makers"

Not about to relinquish his brush to the call of tried-and-tested realism, which has flooded the art market, Lamarroza captures somber-hued images of nature's physical grandeur, as well the panoply of human activity, from planting to harvesting. "The Fertile Land" is a richly delineated setting of contoured hills, a mountain peak, and clouds and cattle. The land is shown as manifestly abundant, the young bull to the right complementing the quiet scenery. But much more than a landscape, this piece is a paean to the hardworking cattle shown in the foreground, the beast of burden in the highlands of Laguna and Batangas.

Sprawling country

"Seaward from Amburayan" shows a sprawling country of hills and woodlands crisscrossed by the main tributary of the Amburayan river. The frenzied activity of local folk engaged in the rigorous task of crushing the cane stalks is shown in "The Wine Makers." A couple of youngsters watching over the sunken jar collecting the sugarcane juice that will be fermented into *basi* completes the picture.

The artist's deft handling of light and dark masses, the depth of field, as well as other elements, comes to the fore in "The Blue Remembered Mountains" with its surprises of color, as well as in "The Clearing," where the eyes are seductively led from center foreground to the mountains in the remote distance.

A companion piece to the painting exhibit at the SM Megamall Art Center is the suite of photographs simultaneously on show at the Metropolitan Gallery. Lamarroza has, through the years, been taking pictures of sights and sites in the course of his travels. The images may be disparate—from still lifes of tropical fruits to pictures of nude women to varied scenes of human interest—but they have been arranged in groups on the walls, the better to see their relationship with one another.

Lamarroza is one artist who continually dares to do fanciful pieces, "The Floating Naiad" is one example. The painting shows a woman gorgeously enjoying her watery sanctuary while ripples of color create a marbling effect around her. And, of course, there's the depiction of a city enveloped in smog, "Manila Under a Cloud," the pristine white clouds in the sky contrasting with the hazy view of Manila's towering skyline.

There is more than meets the eye in this exhibit of Lamarroza's new works, but the show's most vital message is that man and nature are one inseparable entity, just as art can no longer be separated from life.

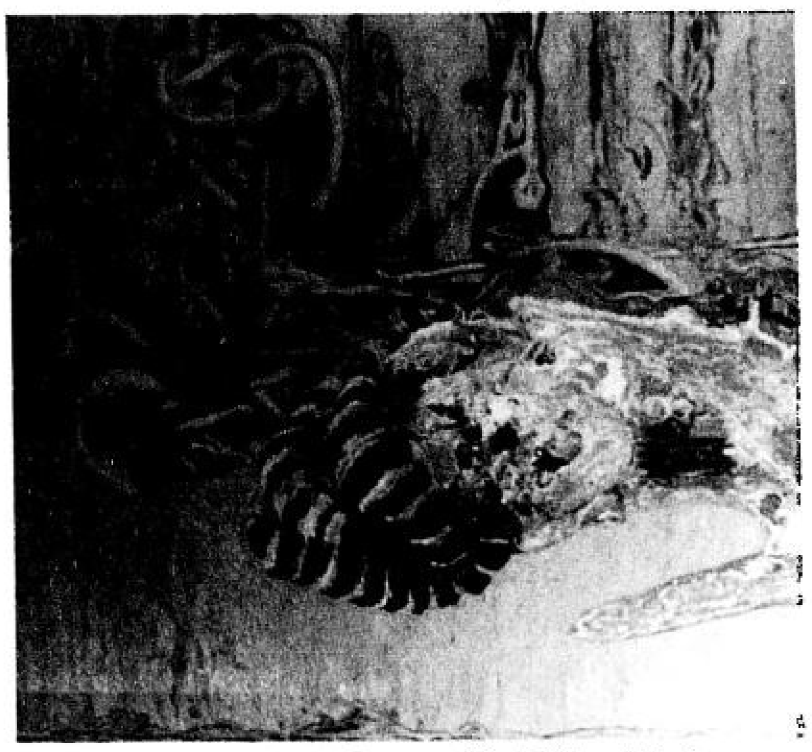
Malang at Asia Art Gallery; Serrano at West Gallery

MAURO Malang Santos is holding "Festive May Women" at the Asia Art Gallery (6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong). The exhibit runs until May 16. Call 632-1433.

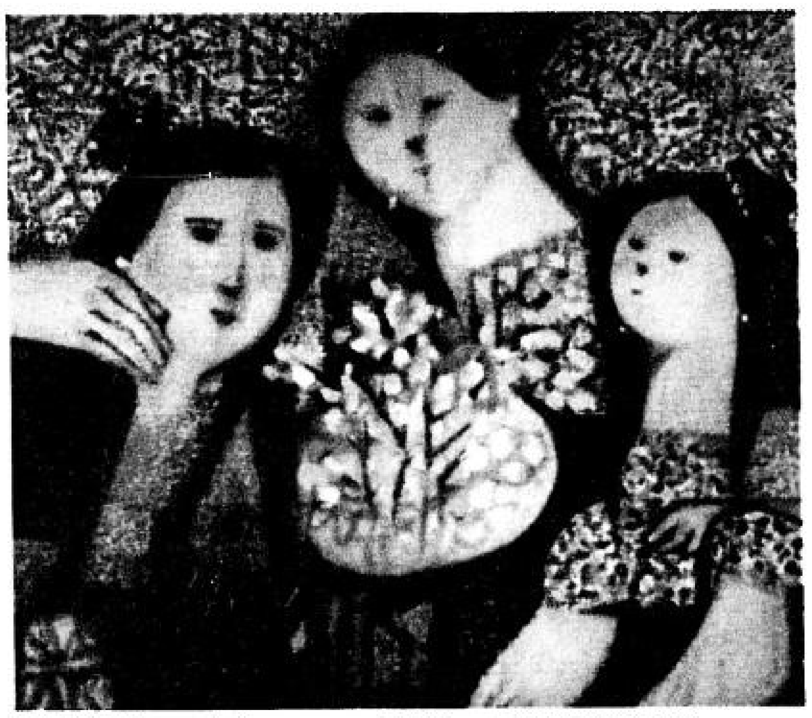
VISUAL ARTS

'HIVE.' Jose Serrano opens his latest one-man show, "Hive," on May 17 at the West Gallery (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati). The show features Serrano's latest large-scale works in oil in colors ranging from monochrome to multitudinous. Call 752-7028/29.

SEEN during the opening of Malang's "Festive May Women" at the Asia Art Gallery on May 5 were, from left, Ong Bungian, Merci Melchor, Lydia Velasco, guest of honor lawyer Helen Teodoro Rivilla, the artist, Faustino Munarriz, Anita Lim, Dr. Judy Chu Lee, Inday Cadapan, James Onglepho, Annabel L. Ong and members of the Saturday Group.



"**HIVE,**" oil on canvas, by Jojo Serrano at West Gallery, Makati



"**WHITE** Flowers," oil on canvas, by Malang at Asia Art Gallery

WOMEN ARTISTS AT ENTERPRISE CENTER. Manuel Baldemor, Dr. Joel Mendez, Mylene Santos, Dieter Korbanka, Malla Baldemor, Margaret Rodriguez, Ronald Ventura and Kiko Escora during the opening of "M," an exhibit by four women artists presented by The Big and Small Art Co. at the Enterprise Center, Makati

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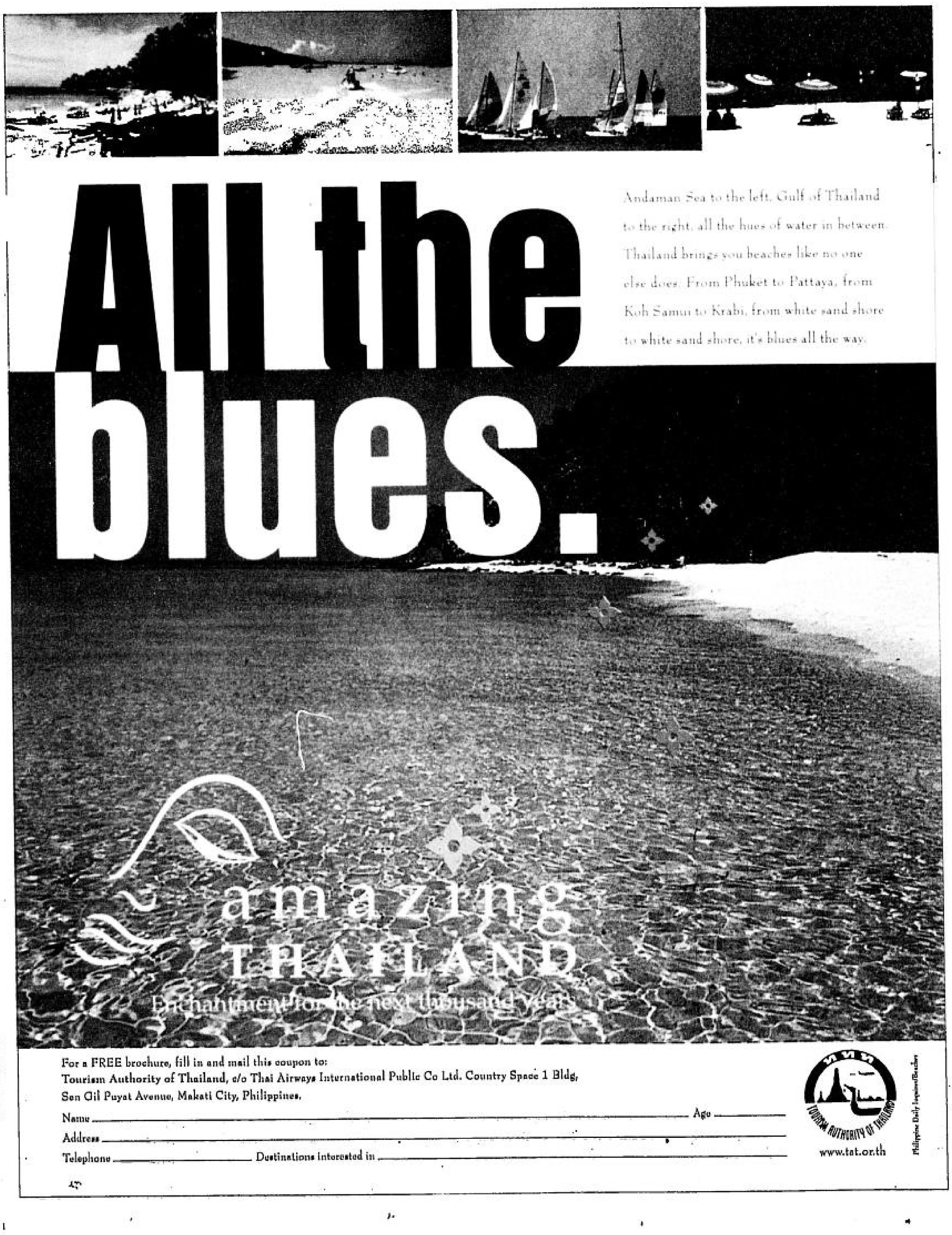

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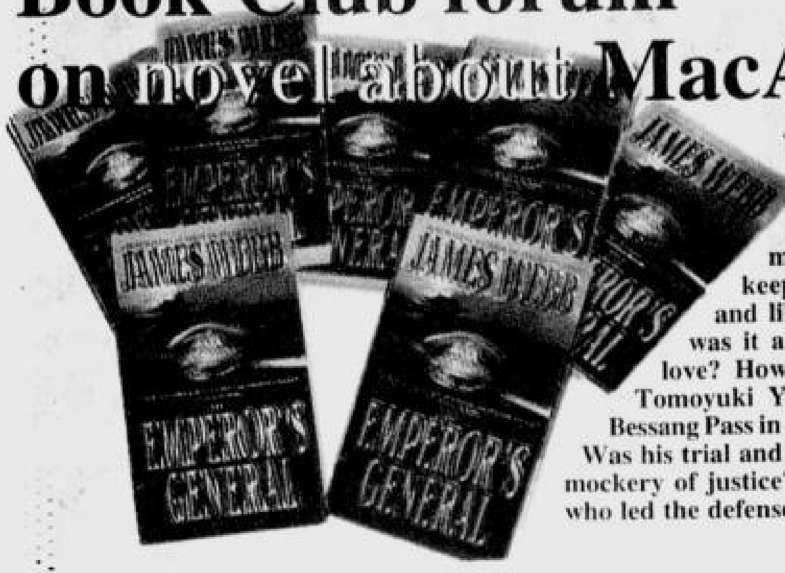
Book Club forum on novel about MacArthur



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Book Club forum on novel about MacArthur

(From page E1)

grim reality of defeat in Corregidor?

Sort out fact from fiction when Goodwill Bookstore launches the Book Club's first discussion of the Book of the Month, "The Emperor's General," a riveting historical fiction by James Webb set in the Philippines and Japan during the World War II with Gen. Douglas MacArthur as central figure. D-Day is May 19, 2-4 p.m. at the Café Literati, Goodwill Bookstore Glorietta, Makati City.

In the novel, Capt. Jay Marsh recounts his exploits during the war, including his transformation from aide to the brilliant general's confidante, translator, surrogate son and spy, while MacArthur, supreme commander of the Allied forces, pursues his ambition to become the American Caesar.

The love interests of the novel's two main characters are two equally beautiful Filipinas—one fictional, the other real. The novel is replete with military history, including the retreat from Bataan, the "rape" of Manila and Nanking, the famous landing at Leyte and the surrender and trial of General Yamashita.

Author Webb is a combat marine and author of five best-selling novels. He is an attorney and an Emmy award-winning journalist who has served as secretary of the navy, assistant secretary of defense and full committee counsel to the US Congress. His original story, "Rules of Engagement," was made into a film, which he also executive-produced, starring Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson. "The Emperor General" is his fifth novel and was purchased by Paramount Pictures as the largest book-to-film deal of 1998. He lives in Virginia.

For this first power-packed book forum, Goodwill Bookstore has invited three moderators. Lead facilitator is Rica Bolipata-Santos, a college instructor from the Ateneo de Manila University with a master's degree in English literature, who teaches western literature from ancient to renaissance, advance expository writing, introduction to literature and English composition. Rica is also associate editor of Windhover Jesuit Magazine of the Ateneo. She has written about Toni Morrison, Shusaku Endo and Marguerite Duras.

Co-moderator is Lt. Col. Ramona Palabrica-Go, the first female pilot of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a graduate of the prestigious Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School in New South Wales, Australia. She heads the nonresident Education Department of the Command and General Staff College, Training Command Philippine Army.

Also moderating is Lt. Col. Oscar Lopez, a graduate of the elite Philippine Military Academy and currently in the faculty of the Command and General Staff College, Training Command, Philippine Army. Lopez has a master's degree in defense studies from the National University of Bangladesh. He received the distinguished service star as commanding officer of the 63rd Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Samar.

"The Emperor General" will be on special promo at 20 percent discount until the day of the discussion. The book discussion will be held regularly on the second Saturday of the month as part of Goodwill's commitment to foster the love of reading among Filipinos. Call Angel Pangilinan at 893-9079 or 813-4956 to -57.

THE WRITING fellows of the 38th UP National Writers' Workshop held in Baguio City

JAYSON Jacobo relaxing over bottles beer with Jimmy Abad.

FICTIONIST Celeste Flores performing with poet Vince Coscolluela at an evening literary reading.

UP NATIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Between the workshop and the 'ukay-ukay'

By Lara Saguisag

FOR TWO weeks, I worked as documentation assistant for the 38th UP National Writers' Workshop. I was part of the workshop staff, along with coordinator Ralph Semino Galán and administrative assistant Bernie Bucao. During the first week, Tony Serrano was there to help out, too. This year's workshop director was UP Creative Writing Center (UP-CWC) director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, so all four of us were always on our toes, rushing to check whether the panelists' bedsheets had been changed, hurrying to see whether the fellows were awake, and running around doing various other errands. We struggled to meet the very stringent standards of quality and excellence set by Dr. Hidalgo.

Well, at least we wanted her to think that we were busy. The truth is, there were only so many photos and so much footage I could take, so many receipts that Bernie could collect, and so much worrying that Ralph could do. We also burned our cellphones with endless texting and nonstop Snake. We managed to sneak off for naps. And puzzled over the best plan to escape the workshop proceedings to go to the *ukay-ukay*.

In return for our work, we got to listen in freely to discussions and arguments about writing (which, to Dr. Hidalgo's relief, sometimes segued to this year's theme, "Ang Bayan at ang Manunulat"), led by literary luminaries such as Bienvenido Lumbera, Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio; Gémino Abad and Lilia Quindoza Santiago. And we were paid well, got free room and board, plus we were in Baguio, away from Manila's sweltering heat.

SECOND-WEEK panelists Ariel Agcaoili and Roland Tolentino

UP-CWC director and workshop director Jing Pantoja Hidalgo listening to young fictionists during small group session.

Pleasant

This year's workshop was held at the pleasant Villa Romana up on Ambuklao Road, where wild birds played among the thriving plants, where fog crept and curled into our rooms ("*Ay*, it's so mystical here in Baguio," Ralph commented, "as in, *mist*!"), where pine scent mixed with the perfume of wildflowers. All that, plus a breathtaking view of the mountains every morning, ought to be a guarantee against boredom, right?

Well, what can I say? So we're immature and unappreciative. We found pleasure not in our sensuous surroundings, but in passing around workshop gossip. And if you've ever been to a workshop, you know that it's the perfect environment for gossip to flourish and run wild.

"*Huy*, guess who slept in whose bed last night!"

"*Hmmm, ang kamay ni ano umaano kay ano...*"

"*Chika sila hanggang* 3 a.m. *kanina, ha.*"

"*Ows? E ikaw? Ba't gising ka pa ng* 3 a.m.?"

But hey, no names here. We don't want to taint our fellows' writing careers this early. In fact, we don't want to taint them, period. The 2001 Baguio batch of fellows was an unusually cohesive, jovial, and amiable bunch. Instead of spending their last night in Baguio dancing the night away at Spirits, they all decided to fly back to Villa Romana and have a bonding session. Because our gossip radar was always attuned, we always heard Good Samaritan stories about the fellows: poet Patty Pangasinan, a licensed physical therapist, doing Shiatsu free of charge; fictionist Migs Villanueva treating her hungry roommates to dinner downtown; Iluko fellow Larry de Francia inviting everyone to his home in Baguio.

Diva

Bernie and I waited in vain for the type-A personalities to rear their ugly heads. Whiny, bossy, hypersensitive types had to emerge. Among the fellows, poet Jayson "Medea" Jacobo was the closest we got to a diva—he was loud, he always got attention, and he had an amazing singing voice. But he was hardly the snob; he was in fact the source of much of our workshop *tsismis*. (And, as it turned out that the whiniest person in the workshop was a panelist).

The fellows were remarkably multitalented, as showcased during the Literary Reading and the Fellows' Night, which were hosted by Jayson and perky Mark Anthony Cayanan. We were thrilled by the musical talents of Cel Flores, Kathy Calingasan and BJ Camaya, and entertained by the half-dance, half-stand-up comedy number led by Gerry Los Baños, Egay Samar and Allan Lopez.

The panelists were not to be outdone. Charlson Ong sang "My Funny Valentine" in the dark, and Vim Nadera turned balladeer as he sang "Never Say Goodbye." On- and off-sessions, Domeng Landicho, as usual, provided comic relief.

The breadth of the talent was, of course, most apparent in the fellows' written works, as in the poems of Naya Valdellon, whom Neil Garcia called "an accomplished poet," and "Kasama," a story by Jose Ma. Bayani, which was praised for its honesty and power. And 18-year-old Cyril Maaño impressed many with her humorous, insightful stories.

"*Ang galing naman*," we would sigh. "*Buti pa sila.*"

Envy

However, we did not envy the fellows the stomach-churning experience of having their work criticized by literary masters like Jun Cruz Reyes and René Villanueva. Most of the fellows were admittedly terrified by the second-week panel, which included Anton Juan, Neil Garcia, Butch Dalisay, Ariel Agcaoili and Roland Tolentino. "Oh, no!" one of them had groaned. "Carla Pacis is the only cheerful face in the panel."

My favorite reaction came from fellow Gil Palma (Eddie Vedder to the fellows), who was distressed at being called on first to comment on a work. His own screenplay was really high stakes and merited two sessions, the first conducted by Rene Villanueva, the second by Anton Juan.

Additional perks were provided by the coming and going of books and writers. The UP Press, with the help of Dean Precy Macasantos, held a book sale during the workshop (we couldn't splurge much, though—we had spent all our money the previous week at the Diplomat bookstore). Poets Butch Macasantos and Mario Miclat, and former fellows Marx Lopez, Alwynn Javier and Jing Panganiban dropped by for a visit. Angel V. Battung of the Palanca Foundation was a guest during the second week, and encouraged everyone to join the upcoming literary contest.

All this, and we were bored? Of course not! During the humdrum moments, we put our escape plans into action, and ended up at the *ukay-ukay*.

B.J. Camaya sharing a quiet moment with Jun Cruz Reyes.

BIEN Lumbera in private consultation with playwright Allan Lopez and screenplay writer Gil Palma

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Filipino book on environment . . .

(From page E4)

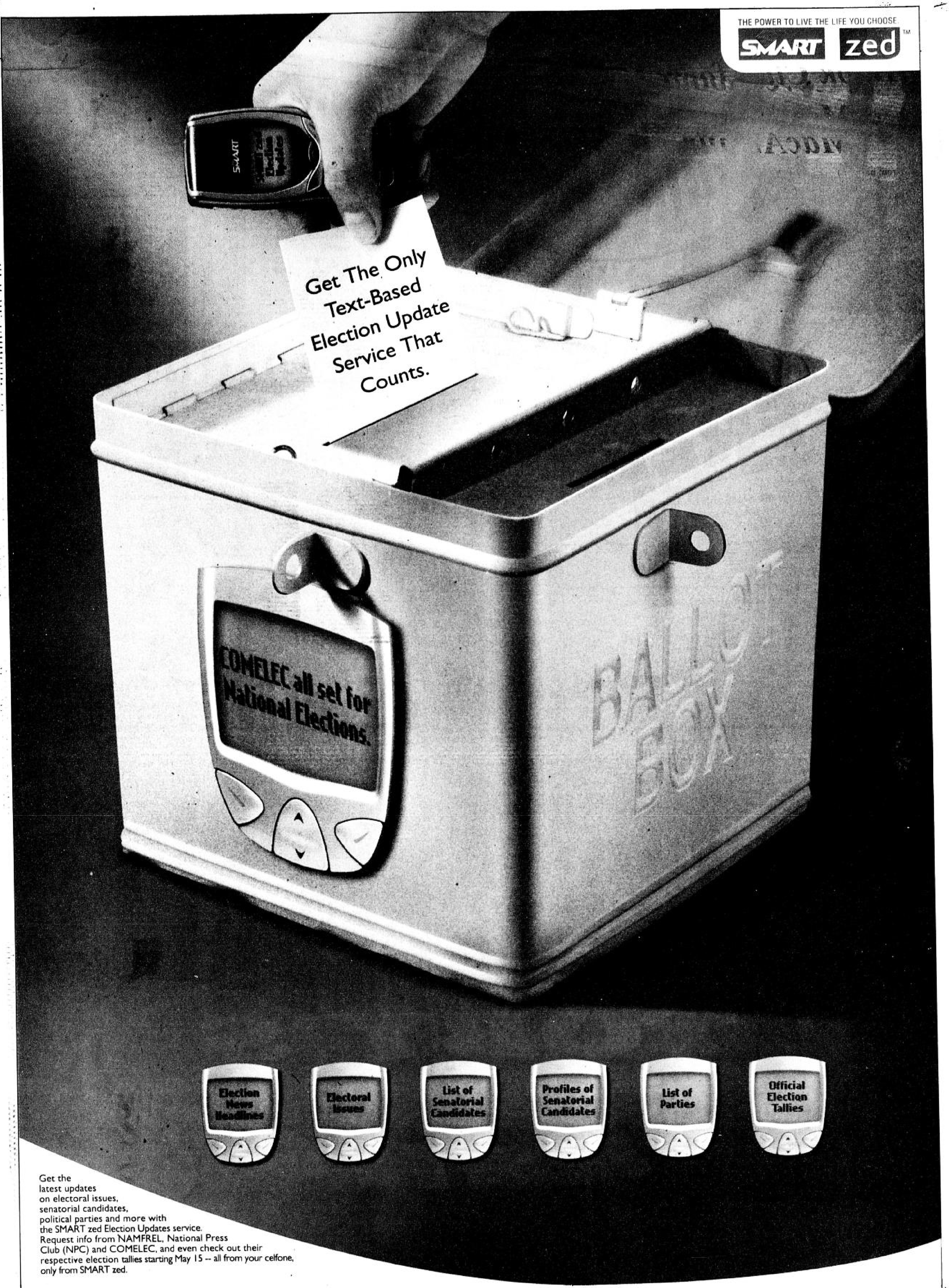
Forest" of Fr. Peter Walpole, director of the Environmental Science for Social Change. The map showed that in the 1900s, the Philippines had a forest cover of 70 percent. In 1999, this cover had been reduced to 18.3 percent and is projected to decrease further to an alarming 6.6 percent in 2010 if nothing is done to save the environment. With the US launching, Velasco hopes to bring the book to a wider audience, and to enlist the help of Filipinos and NGOs abroad in the reforestation campaign.

The book is published by Pangaea Books, established by Velasco as a publishing house for information exclusively on nature. Pangaea's advocacies are implemented by their partner organization, Happy Earth Inc., a nonstock, nonprofit organization. Happy Earth recently entered into a tie-up with ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan to help reforest the La Mesa Dam watershed with native tree species.

Velasco bemoans the fact that it is very difficult to find homes for trees, such as those that they offer for adoption from their seedling banks. "Most individuals or companies couldn't care less," she says. "They don't realize that it takes 700 years to achieve biodiversity in the rainforest."

"Every tree shelters 1,500 different animals," she adds. "Animals are at the top of the food chain, plants at the bottom. When they go, we go too. Our forests are disappearing—one day, we may not have any more trees! We must learn to reforest, to plant native trees, so that we will achieve biodiversity and attract back our indigenous animals."

Through her books, like "Are You the Forest King?", Velasco hopes to educate our children on the importance of caring for and protecting the environment, and to encourage them and their parents to plant trees and help rebuild our rainforests. Such a daunting task for a company that is only a year old! Yet, Velasco remains unfazed. "There is only one message that I keep repeating," she says. "We are one with earth, one with nature. If people could just see that earth as our bigger bodying we wouldn't lose our home."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Filipino book on environment to be launched in California

NOT many books authored by Filipinos get to be launched in the US, much less a book on the environment written for children, but the honor will go to "Are You the Forest King?", a book by environmentalist and pressed flower artist Penny Reyes-Velasco.

Set on May 19, the launching will be held under the auspices of the Babilonia-Wilner Foundation at its Pusod Center in Berkeley, California.

"Are You the Forest King?" is the story of a young boy who travels into a rainforest in search of the true ruler of the forest. Along the way, he encounters different plants and asks them if they are the Forest King. In response, they explain their role in the web of life. The boy discovers the real Forest King in the end and develops a love for trees and the forest.

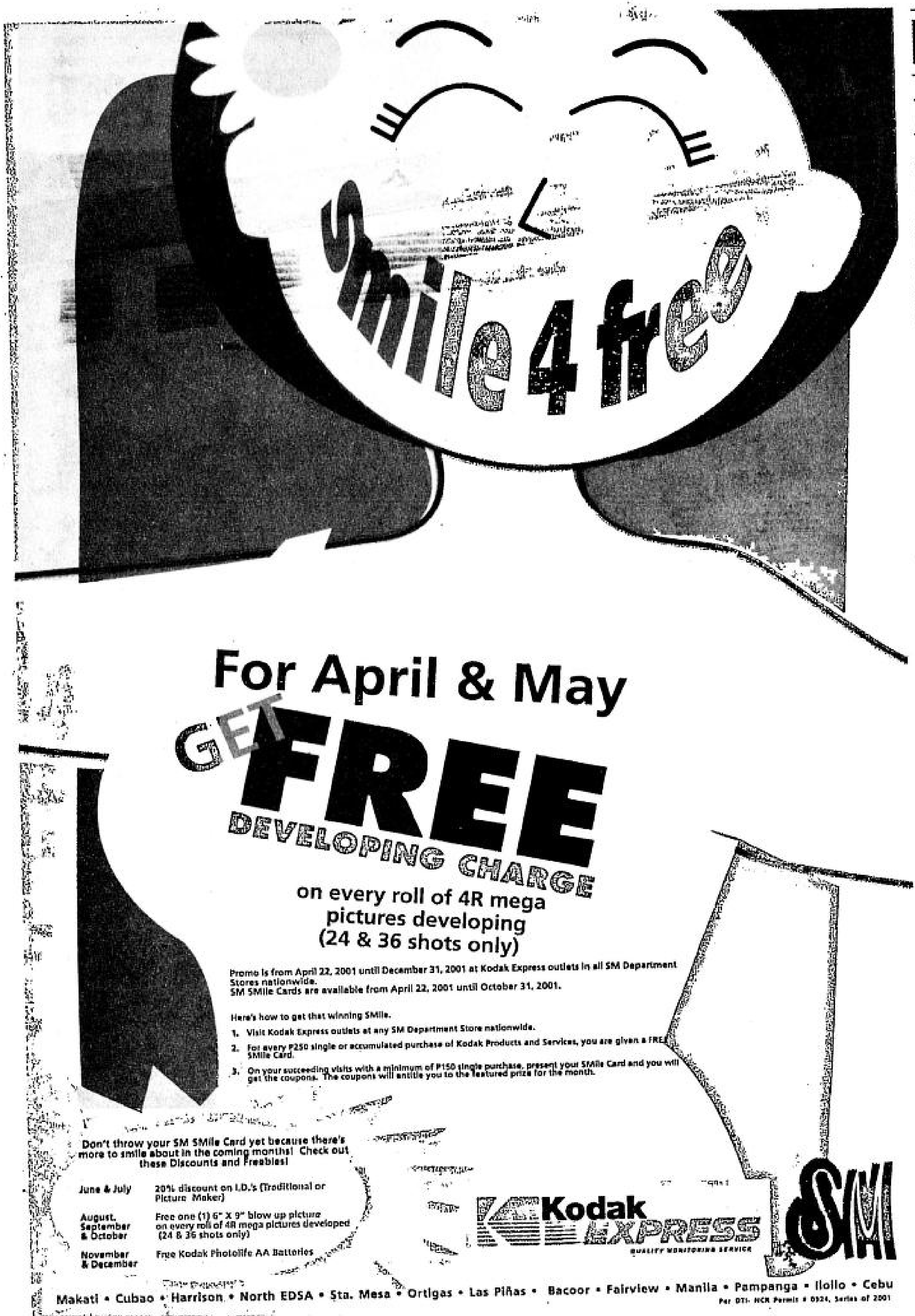
Velasco wrote the book and did the illustrations, which were made from real flowers, leaves, twigs and roots lovingly and painstakingly gathered, pressed and glued into artistic collage constructions and photographed by Nico Sepe.

The book comes with a toy paper crown, illustrated with her artwork. It also has a Tagalog version, translated by Fr. Rene Javellana. This very same story has also been made into a cartoon that will be available for commercial release soon.

While it is an enchanting children's story and the illustrations fascinating artworks in themselves, the book is seen as a unique and refreshing method of teaching children to love and care for trees, rainforests and the environment. More importantly, the book will help rebuild Philippine rainforests, since part of the proceeds from the sale of each copy will go to reforestation projects by NGOs.

The idea for the book came to Velasco when she saw the map "The Decline of the Philippine

FILIPINO/ p.E2



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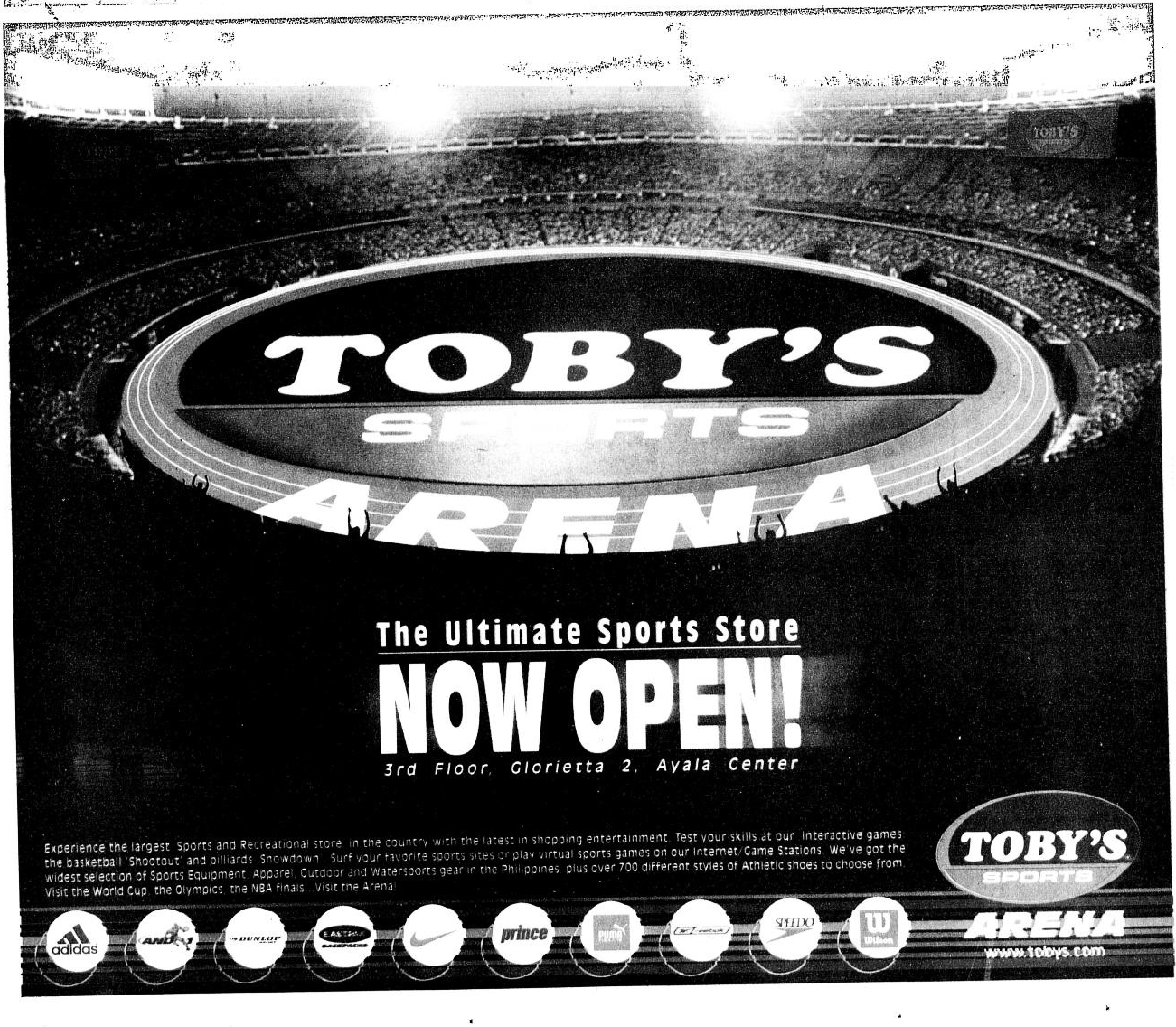

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Gary del Rosario graduates with honors in Cleveland

By Pablo A. Tariman

TENOR Gary del Rosario has many reasons to be elated. He had a graduation recital last Friday and will graduate at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) with an Artist's Certificate, which is a special credential given to an undergraduate student who has demonstrated extraordinary level of performance skill.

In the graduation ceremony on May 19, he was handpicked by the CIM president to sing two numbers—Strauss' "Zueignung" and Ver-

GARY/ p.F5

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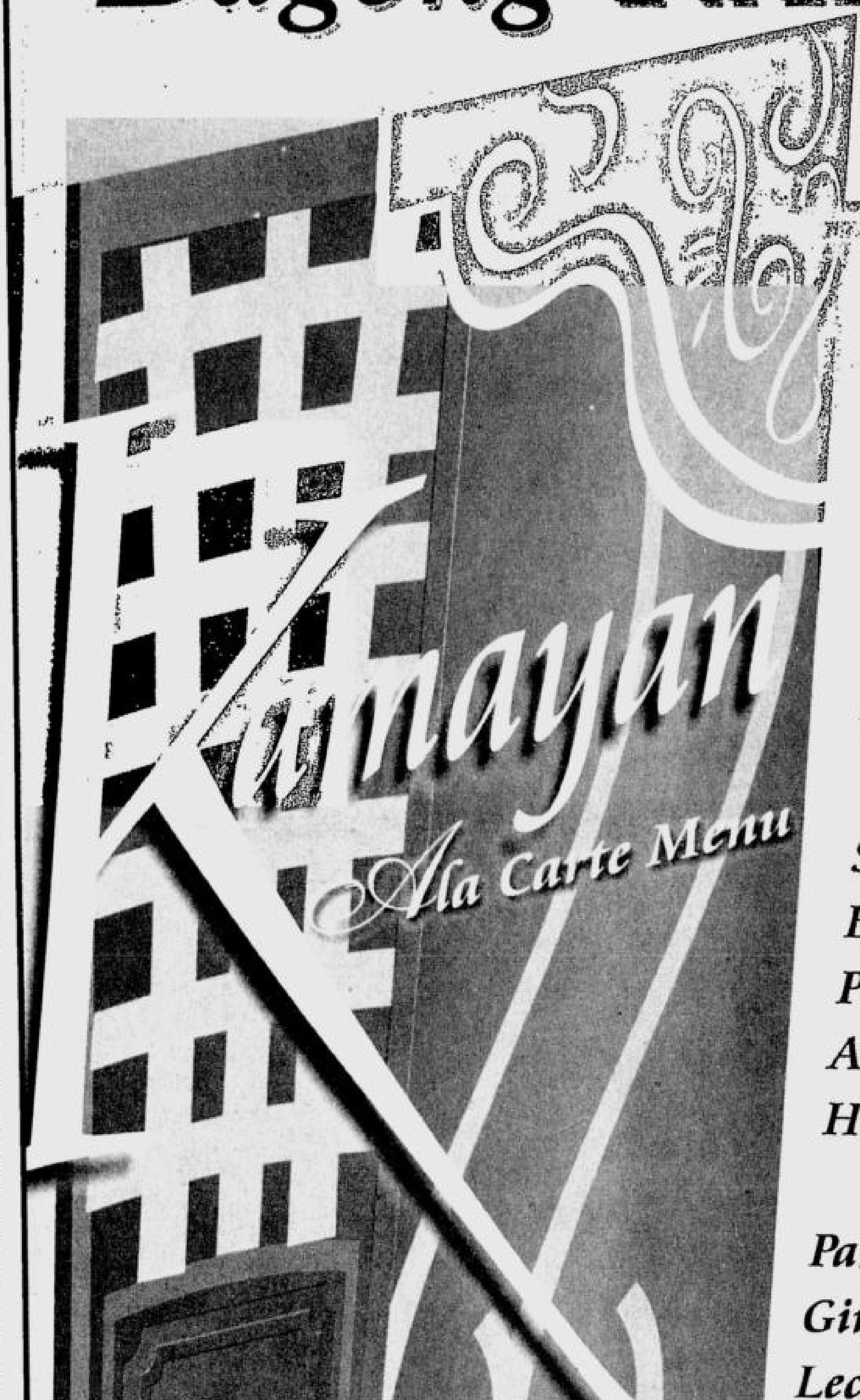

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Contemporary works, botanical prints and 'Kasalikasan' sculpture at Bonifacio Global City

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

THE ASIA Society, together with Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, sponsored an exhibit of contemporary works of Filipino designers at **Budgi Layug**'s gallery on Reposo Street, Makati. **Doris Magsaysay-Ho**, dynamic president of Asia Society, explained that the association aims to highlight Filipinos who have brought honor to their country abroad—hence, the design show.

All of you know **Anita Magsaysay-Ho**, the painter. But how many of you are aware that daughter Doris, aside from her various skills, her involvement in the cultural field, is also a talented painter? Ask lucky **Paz Yuchengco**, who just had her portrait done by both mother and daughter!

* * *

Sculptor **Jerusalino Araos** unveiled his "living sculpture," "Kasalikasan," at the Bonifacio Global City last month. Jerry is the winner of the International Public Art Competition held in 1997, along with artists **Lor Calma**, **Ron Fischer** and **Vito Acconci**.

Kasalikasan is a word coined by Araos which means "interacting or being involved with nature." It is actually a combination of four words: *kasali ka sa kalikasan* in Filipino. The sculpture is located in the 3, 556-sq-m garden beside the Pacific Plaza Tower. It is a garden that **Charlie Rufino** describes as the soul of the Fort Bonifacio development. Unlike other sculptors who utilize "dead" materials such as pieces of soldered brass, Araos uses "living" things like plants, trees and flowers to make his newest sculpture. The oddest thing during the inaugural ceremonies was **Coke Bolipata**'s masterful rendition of "Hatinggabi" at 3 p.m. out in the open with the sun glaring down on all of us.

* * *

Naturally it was a relief to hie off to the air-conditioned comforts of The Tivoli at the Mandarin Oriental for **Emmanuel Cordova**'s eighth solo exhibition of botanical prints. The elegant dining room served as an appropriate background for the delicate renditions of the *camachile*, the guava and other tropical fruits and flowers. Ayala Museum, under Dr. **Nina Baker** and her staff, mounted the exhibit that was opened by **Chito Madrigal Collantes** (husband **Manoling** was absolutely elegant in understated gray). **Mara Loinaz**, who handles Cordova's promotions and shows, also runs a restaurant in Greenbelt utilizing only organically grown vegetables that she also sells.

Among the guests were two Mares who swore former President **Joseph Estrada** was kept reassured by his coterie that everything was fine even as the crowds were gathering on Edsa. As for a certain antique dealer in San Juan, it seems she was caught holding the proverbial empty bag after she was refused payment for dozens of her items ordered for those tacky mansions.

BUDJI Layug

ISABEL Wilson

CONRAD Onglao

LOURDES Montinola and French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

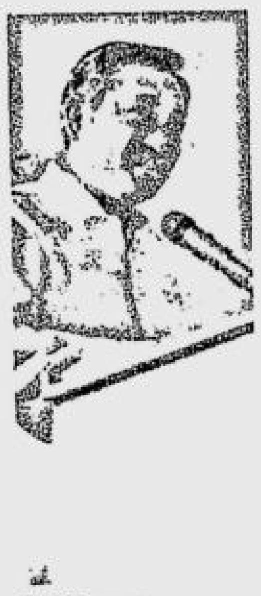
TESSIE Luz and Sonia Ner

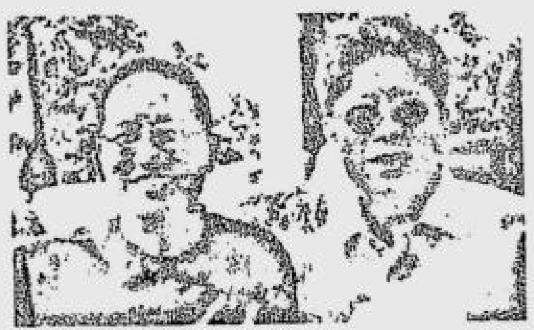
GINA Lopez and Doris Ho

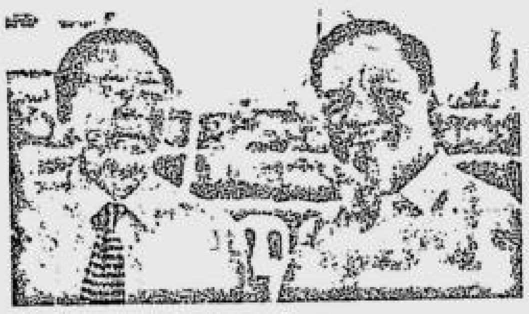
LOR Calma and Ces Drilon

MANUEL Collantes, Mandarin Oriental general manager Helmut Gaisberger, Chito Madrigal Collantes, Dr. Florina Baker and artist Emmanuel Cordova (partly hidden)

HELEN Ong, Emmanuel Cordova and Evie Costa


RIC Pascua


JERRY Araos and Charlie Rufino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'Little Mermaid' auditions

TRUMPET'S will hold auditions for the Aug. 3 to Sept. 9 restaging of its highly successful musical, "Little Mermaid," on May 19, 1-6 p.m., at Stageworx, 5/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Auditionees must be 16 years old and above. Bring a recent 2x2" photo, a biodata and a minus-1 or musical score. Call Trumpets at 633-5010.

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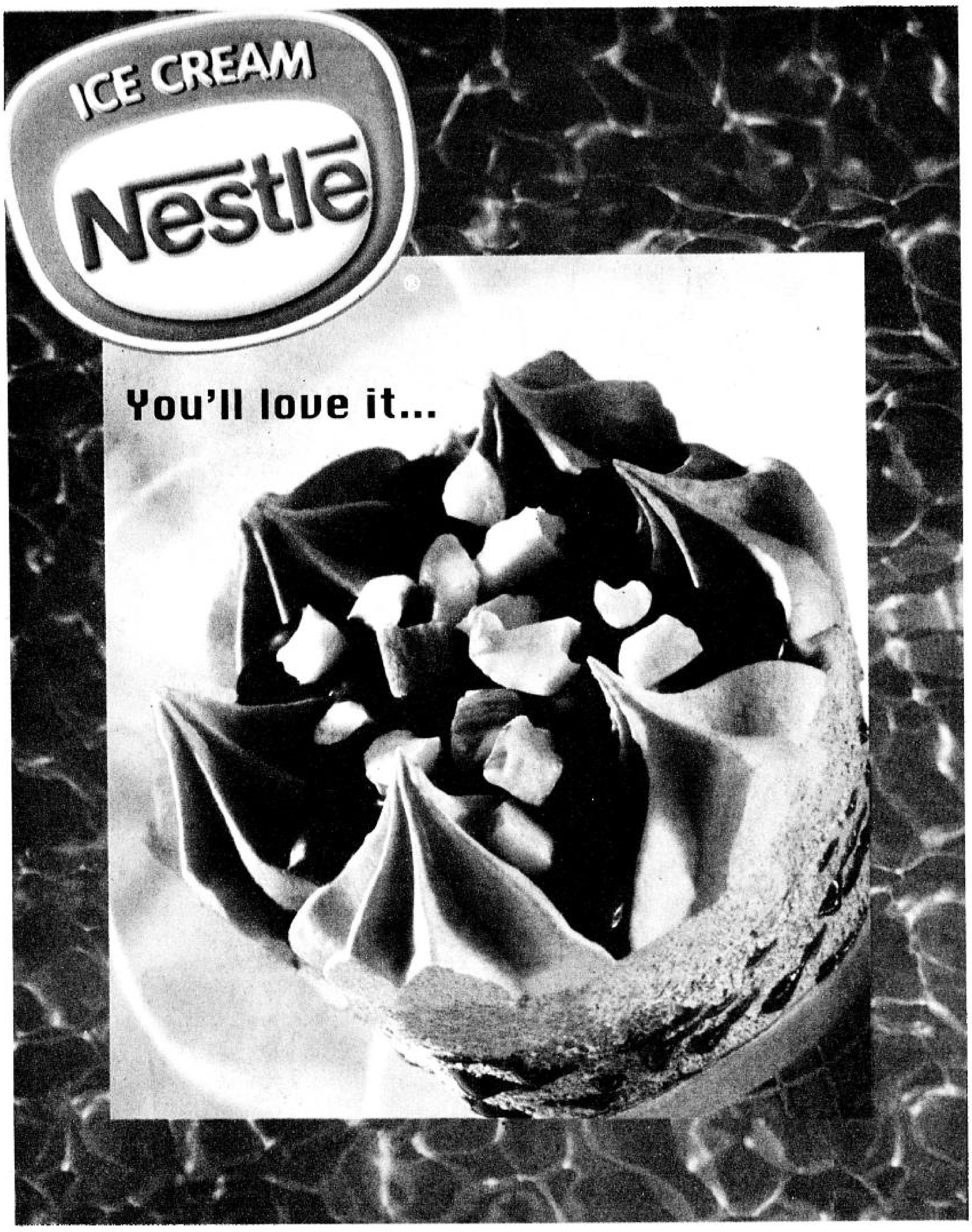

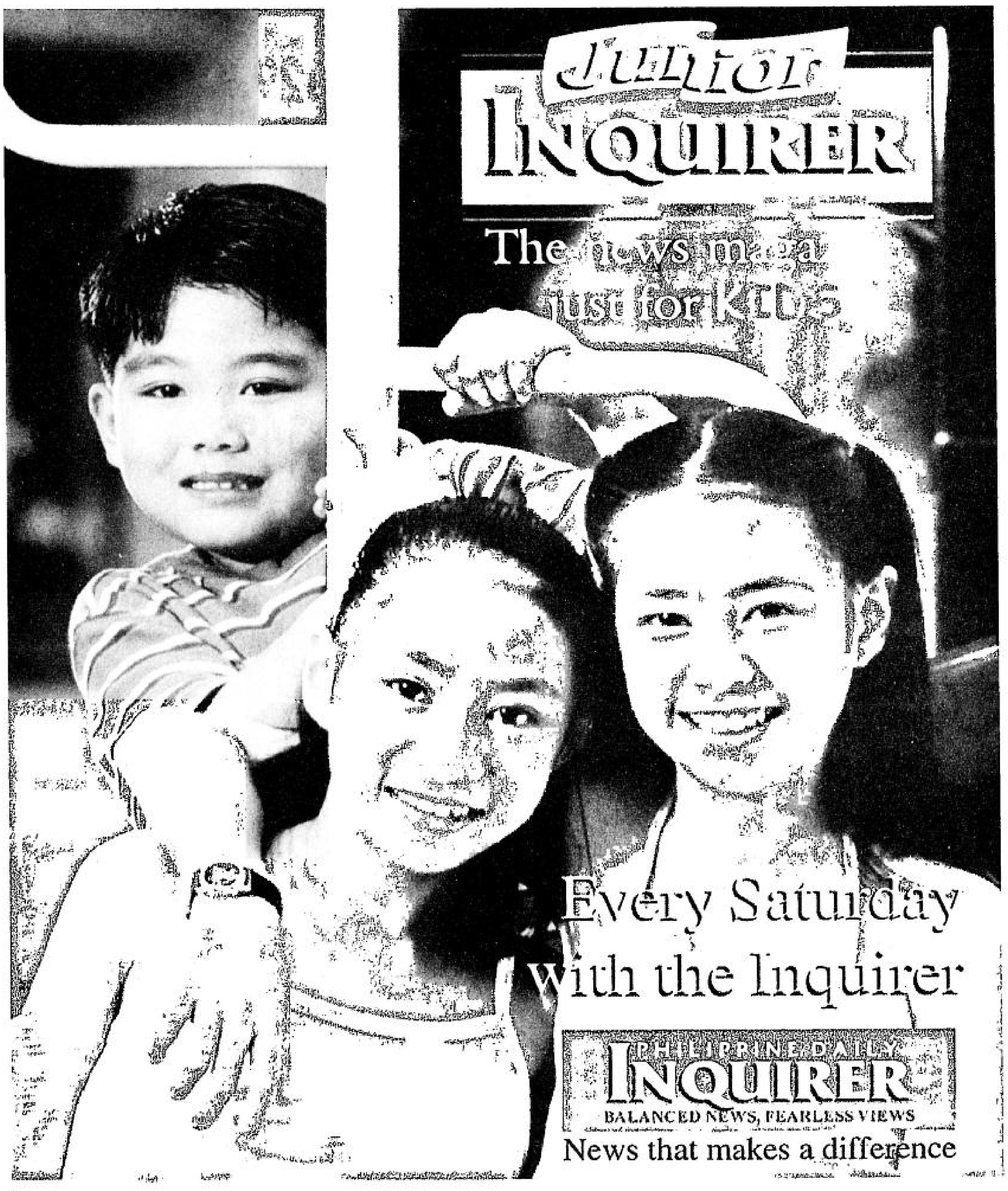
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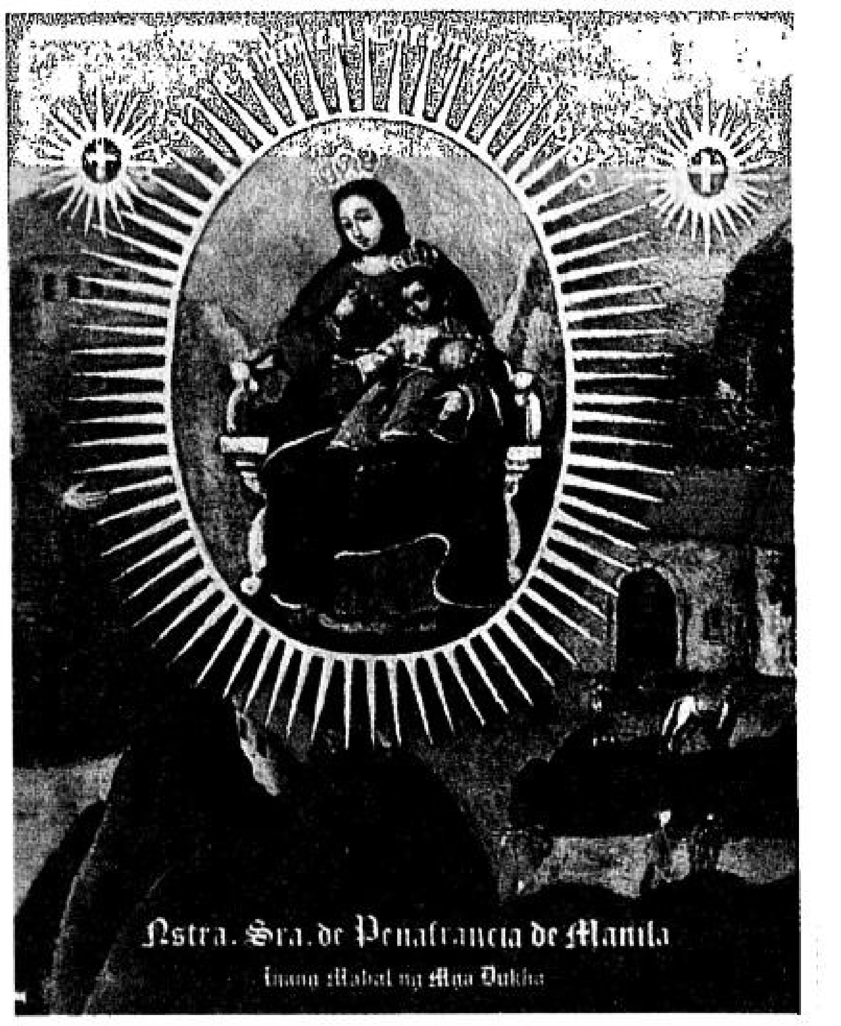

Nstra. Sra. de Peñafrancia de Manila
Inang Mahal ng Mga Dukha

Paco's Peñafrancia shrine marks 50 years as parish church

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MAY 20 is a special day for the parishioners of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Church in Paco. On that day the parish celebrates its Golden Jubilee as a parish.

What makes the parish special is that it is also the shrine of the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, older than the image in Naga by 15 years. The shrine started as a *visita* or small chapel on May 14, 1621. Legend reveals that the icon was found by some fishermen and farmers by the stream that is now known as Estero de la Concordia.

It was hanging from a tree called *bakawan*. The icon was brought to the main church of La Candelaria in San Fernando Dilao in Paco and enthroned at the main altar, but the icon disappeared and found once again hanging from the *bakawan* tree. The people immediately built a *visita* of *sawali* on the spot where the icon or picture was found.

This story was related by word of mouth by the old people in those days and was told from generation to generation of the families living then in that area like the Candelarias, Arriolas, Bernardinos, Tolentinos, Villars, Gonzaleses, Padillas, De Guias, Caleros, Reyeses, Ongs, Constantinos, Tulios and many more.

Another history reveals that it was the father of Padre Miguel de Covarrubias who brought the icon of the Virgin to a small *visita* near the quarters of soldiers. The older Covarrubias was a soldier under the King of Spain. When Miguel de Covarrubias went to Nueva Caceres in 1712, he had a chapel built for the *cimarrones* near the Isarog River and enthroned the image of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia there.

Bicolanos are known for their devotion to the Virgin under this title. Perhaps it is opportune that the new parish priest is from Legazpi. Fr. Nolan Ador Que will be installed on May 20.

'Tatarin' street dance

Following tradition, the dance called *tatarin* will be held on May 19 at 3 p.m. The street dance honors the Virgin as a way of thanking her for her many miracles. The processional dance will wave its way from Zamora Street to Quirino, Canonigo, then Pandacan.

When the Virgin was canonically crowned on Nov. 10, 1985 by Jaime Cardinal Sin and former First Lady Imelda Marcos at the Luneta Grandstand, the street dancing reached out to Taft Avenue toward the Luneta.

For the occasion, Lucio San Pedro was commissioned to compose a hymn to Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia in Filipino.

The small chapel grew bigger as the years wore on. It was made a parish on Aug. 11, 1951. Father Que will be the 16th parish priest.

I remember going to the Peñafrancia church in Paco in 1983 when I was suffering from achalasia. The fiesta Masses were so full of people that I just stood on the side near the altar praying and begging the Virgin for a miracle cure.

I prayed to most of her titles like Our Lady of Manaoag, Our Lady of Remedies and Nuestra Señora de Guia. After all, she is one and the same Mother, the same Mary. She heard my prayer.

Other people I know who are devoted to the Virgin de Peñafrancia de Manila are Rodel Rosales who has been serving the church since he was 18 years old; Tammie Candelaria who is the church curator and designer; the late art restorer Jun Gonzales and photojournalist Ed Santiago.

My personal miracle in Manaoag

I WAS blessed to have been able to witness the reenactment of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of Manaoag. Through the help of Ms Jovita Sy, my friend Carmeling Sevilla and I left Manila at 4 a.m. of May 2 via Avis Rent A Car. The Mass was at 8 a.m., but we were delayed by heavy traffic in Urdaneta. I prayed to the Virgin that we would arrive on time for the coronation.

As soon as we arrived at the gate, a man in white met us and led us to a maze of rooms until we were in the front of the church where the ceremonies were being held.

Two minutes before the coronation by the Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco, I was ready with my camera. I also arrived on time to be part of the offering. Edna Toral from Cebu and I carried the vigil candles. She came with two priests: Fr. Ross del Noel and Fr. Rey Talaugon of Moalboal parish; and devotees Nelissa Mangubat and Cynthia Abella. The Virgin really wanted us to be there.

Richard and Rose So and their family donated the crown used for the coronation, while architect Jonathan Gan donated the design of the altar.

At least 50 priests, seven bishops and two archbishops came to celebrate the fiesta of the Virgin. In a future column, I will relate the miracles of Our Lady as testified by her devotees.

Churches that want the pilgrim image of the Virgin can call Jovita Sy at 687-2548/46.

Dancing before Our Lady of Salambao

AS early as 5 a.m. of May 19, women who have a hard time conceiving will dance in front of Our Lady of Salambao in Obando, Bulacan. Two days previously, the feast days of San Pascual Baylon and Sta. Clara were celebrated (May 17 and 18, respectively). The miraculous image of the Virgin was found caught in a bamboo raft in a small stream by two fishermen brothers on June 19, 1763.

Our Lady of Salambao is also known to help women having a hard time giving birth.

'Buhayin ang tao sa Maynila'

I SAW Amado Bagatsing one Sunday at Malate Church attending Mass. He has been our congressman for 11 years in the fifth district of Manila. Through his Kabaka program, he had been able to alleviate the poor conditions of the less fortunate. I remember that every November, he brings in Chicago-based Filipino doctors to give free medical treatment and surgery in areas that covered his district.

Kabaka (Kabalikat ng Bayan sa Kaunlaran) pursues goals like providing health services, employment, sports program for the youth and housing for those who do not have roofs over their heads.

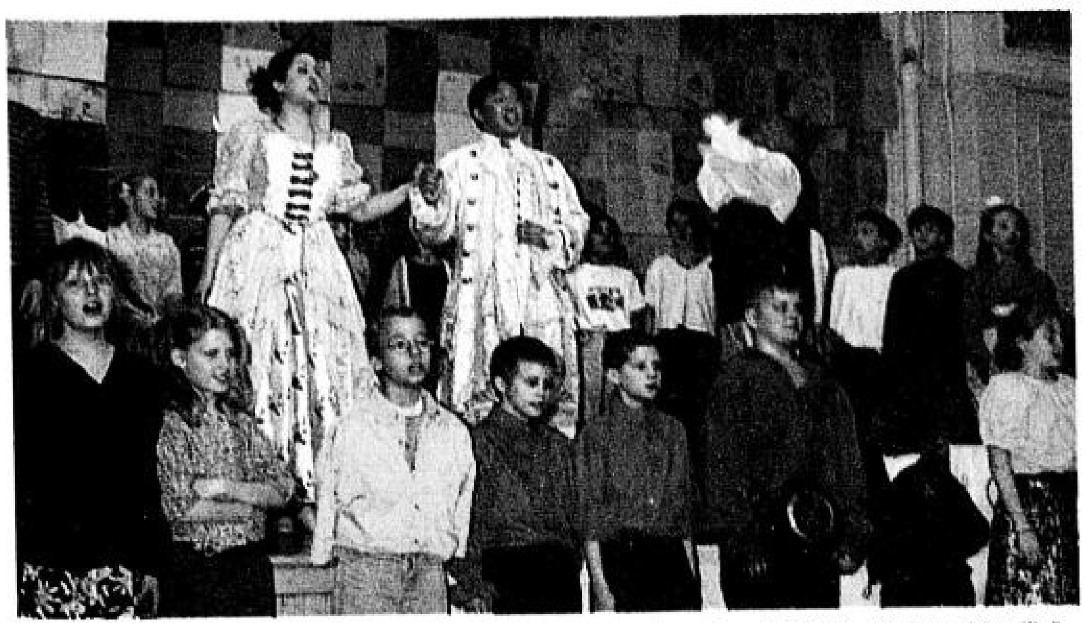
When he was congressman, his wife Chari organized *belen* contests in barangays to encourage poor residents to do something with their surroundings.

Romblon barrio needs a chapel

BARANGAY Guinawayan in Ferrol, Romblon needs a concrete chapel. Right now, Fr. Arturo Muros celebrates Mass in a *nipa* hut without walls. The chapel is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Those who want to help can write him c/o St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Ferrol, Romblon. The Augusto Festin family has already donated the land.

'Obra Maestra II'

CATCH Ramon Obusan's "Obra Maestra II" at the CCP on May 19 at 8 p.m. and May 20 at 3 p.m. The program consists of dances and music set in village settings, found in forest recesses, mountain nooks, coastal areas and small farmlands. San Francisco-based Likha Philippine Ensemble will perform with Obusan's dancers. Tony Cajucom will design the carnival queen gowns.



ARTISTS from Cleveland Opera on Tour perform excerpts from Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" with students from Mound Elementary School in Cleveland. From left: Fenlon Lamb, Leodigario del Rosario and Brian Johnson

Gary del Rosario graduates with honors in Cleveland

(From page F1)

di's "La donna e mobile"—accompanied by the CIM Symphony Orchestra.

In the same occasion, Del Rosario will also receive the Max Berman Prize in Voice (also for one who has demonstrated outstanding performance as determined by the voice faculty), his second after receiving the Boris Goldovsky Prize the previous year.

The last three months were particularity busy months for the young Filipino tenor.

Last March, he was Count Almaviva in Cleveland Opera's production of "The Barber of Seville" and a month after, he was singing a part in Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades" directed by Gary Race.

Of his part in this Tchaikovsky opera, Donald Rosenberg of Cleveland's The Plain Dealer wrote: "He [Gary Race] had a potentially first-rate Gherman in Gary del Rosario, a tenor with a dark, ringing sound and a fine way of throwing himself into the thick of dramatic things."

On the eve of his graduation on May 18 until June 10, he will appear in the play "Master Class" by Terrence McNally. He will tackle the role of a student in a Maria Callas master class in Juilliard where he gets to sing "Recondita armonia" (from Puccini's "Tosca") at the Beck Center for the Performing Arts in Lakewood, Ohio.

Next month until July, he sings the supreme challenge of his singing life, the title role of Verdi's "Otello" to be mounted by the Cleveland Opera Center.

Meanwhile, out of the 700 who auditioned for the 2000 Merola Auditions last year, only 10 percent qualified in the finals. Two of them were Filipinos—Del Rosario and soprano Rachelle Gerodias.

Last week in Cleveland, PDI music critic Tony Hila got to hear mezzo soprano Dawn Upshaw singing with the Cleveland Symphony and both the singer and the orchestra got a well-deserved ovation.

But a week before the concert, Upshaw heard Del Rosario singing "La donna e mobile" in a master class and the American singer was speechless. Then she burst into, "Fantastic! What a voice."

Opera-friendly

Cleveland is indeed an opera-friendly state as can be gleaned from the successful opera program being introduced in many schools.

One teacher noted, "If we are to create schools that are safe places for children to grow and thrive and dream, then we need to help students and teachers develop multiple lenses with which to view learning, and we have found the arts to be a powerful lens. Time and again, our involvement with the Cleveland Opera has allowed us to reach children in dramatic ways."

Which reminds me that a Mozart opera mounted by the CCP the other week merited only one performance and with hardly any feedback from the media. That was one portable opera that should go to the schools or the countryside where opera is heard only once in 100 years or never at all.

TENOR Gary del Rosario gets congratulatory kisses from soprano Fenlon Lamb and Tanya Lee Shaddle.

Here and there

SO what keeps singing alive despite the dearth of song recitals and opera presentations?

There is this group whose members love to sing and they meet every Monday at the Agfo Social Hall in Camp Aguinaldo to show how much they care for the glory of the human voice.

Last Monday, painters Allan Cosio and Ivi Avellana-Cosio had a joint recital in the same venue and proved that they could go beyond the painter's brush and invade the territory of Bach, Lara, Pergolesi and Poulenc.

Coached by Dante de la Fuerte and assisted by Jude Areopagita, Allan and Ivi projected vocal contrast. He paid tribute to the landscape of Spain (Lara's Farolito and Veracruz) and she intoned De Fallas and San Pedro songs with meticulous, if diffident, articulation. If Allan elicited passion, Ivi focused on the poetry of the text and made her own quiet conquest. Intimate recitals like this teach ordinary listeners that it takes hard work to even make a simple song sound decent. Allan and Ivi love art songs and arias and subjected themselves to the rudiments of discipline that go with their interpretation. The thing is, they sing as part of a way of life. When you come to think of it, it is sheer love for singing that keeps art songs and arias alive in this country.

* * *

Pianist Ariel Dechosa peformed in Iowa right after his much-acclaimed Emperor concerto with the PPO. Last March, he performed with baritone Ryan de Ryke (Winterreise) in Baltimore and with violinist Yoo-Sun at the Juilliard School. After his stint with the Lasker Music Festival in North Carolina, he returns to Manila for the Filipino Artists Series concert in Manila on July 31 and outreach concerts with baritone Jonathan Zaens, cellist Willie Pasamba and flutist Antonio Maigue, yes, all in one performance!

* * *

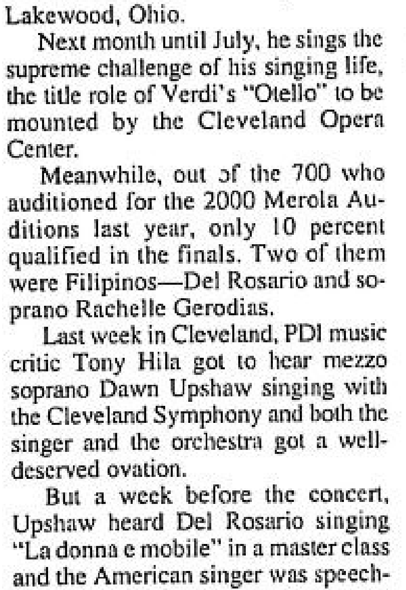
Meanwhile, Hiyas Hila (daughter of Tony Hila) qualified to join the New Millennium International Piano Festival in Gijon, Asturias, Spain.

Nelson Caruncho, another student of Hila, passed auditions at the San Francisco Conservatory, the CIM in Cleveland and the University of Illinois. He chose the latter.

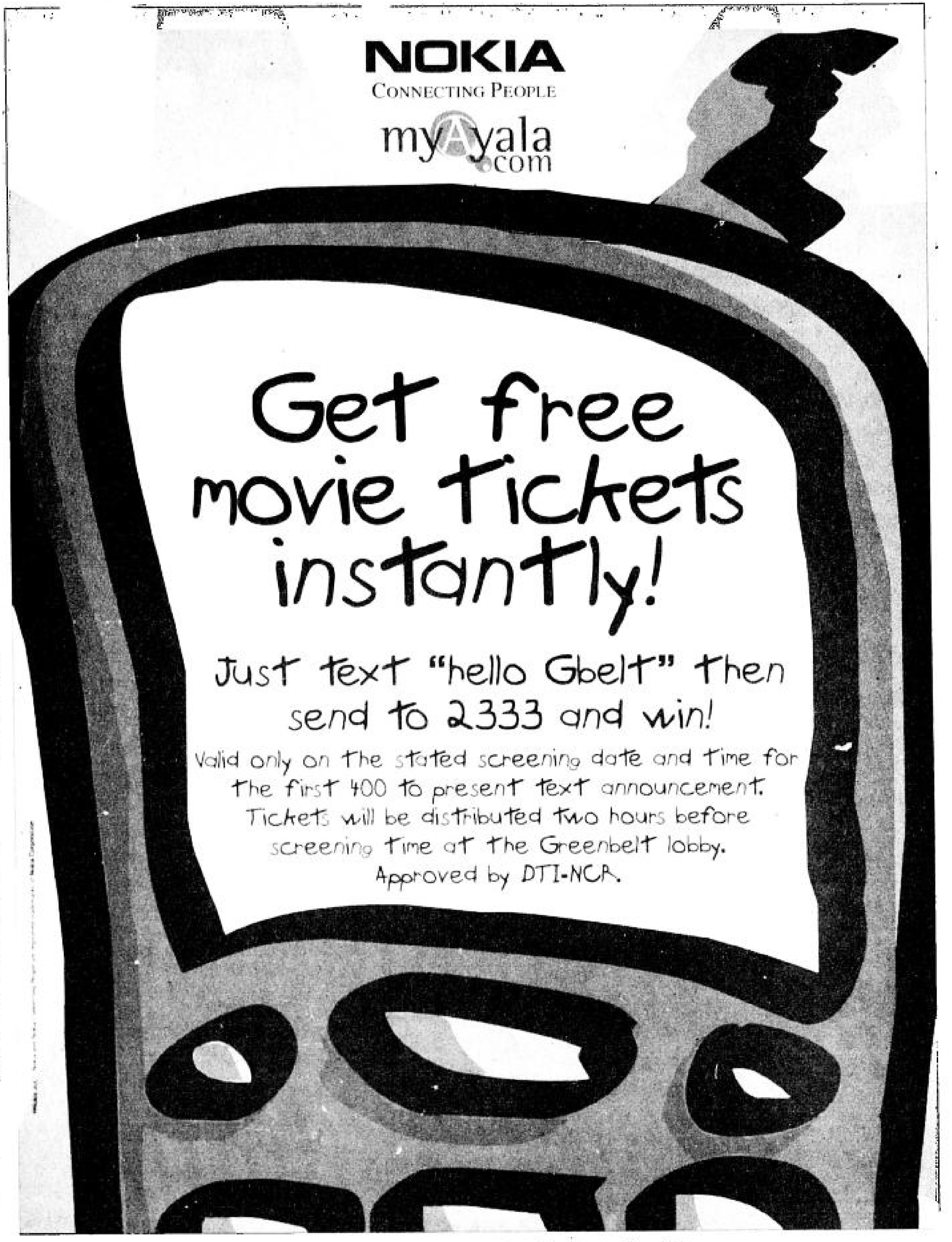
* * *

I missed the first part of that "Evening of Chamber Music" at St. Cecilia's Hall last Sunday featuring the Battig Trio's Mendelssohn Trio, Ravel's Tzigane by Gina Medina and Luz Morete and the Cello Ensemble of Willie Pasamba doing Villalobo's Bachianas Brasilierias No. 5.

The kids took over the last part when they were better off in the first part. It was like the professionals did a front act for the Susuki kids. As you can see, it also takes proper programming to make the best out of a chamber music concert.



TONY Hila and pianist daughter Hiyas Hila in Annapolis, USA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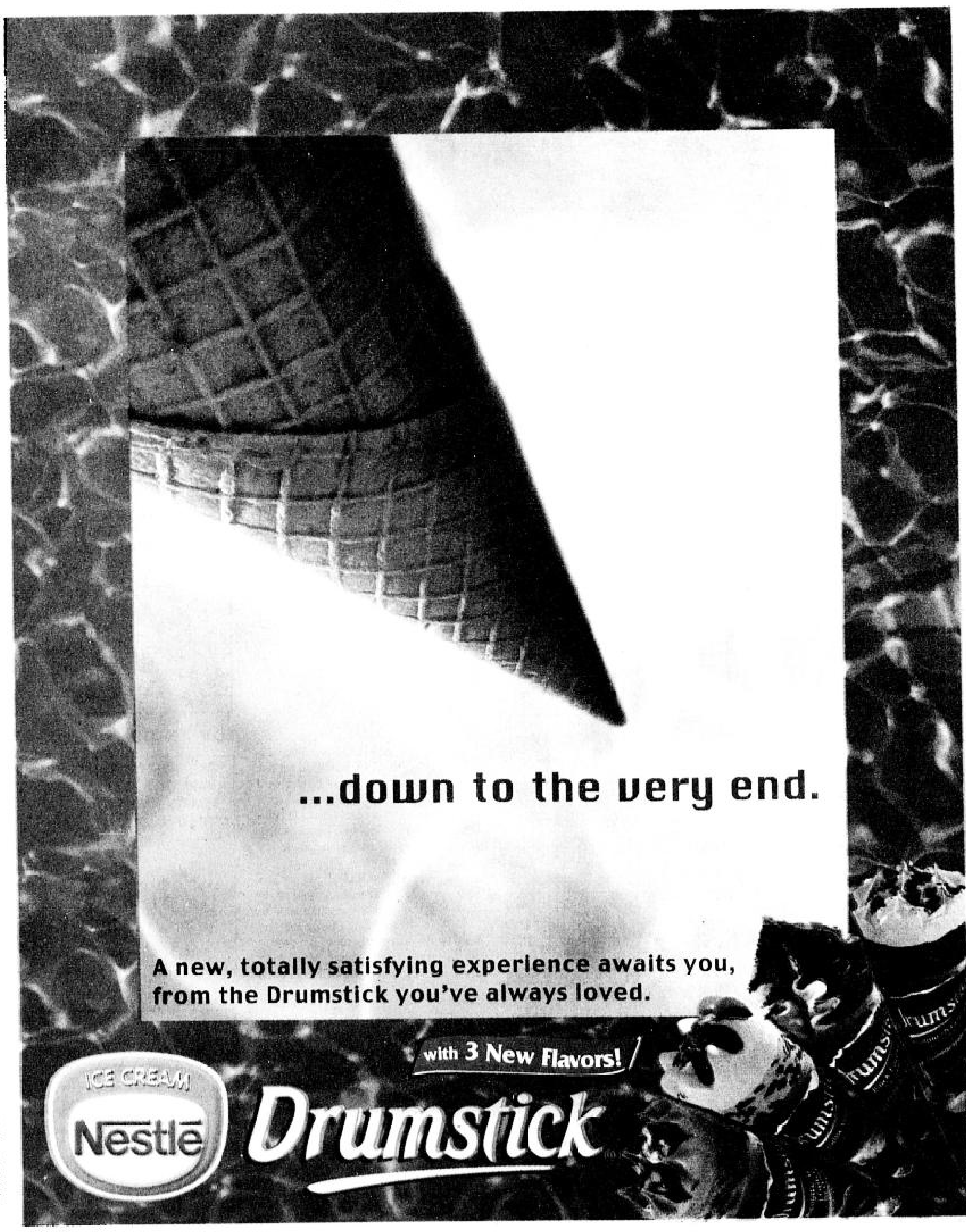
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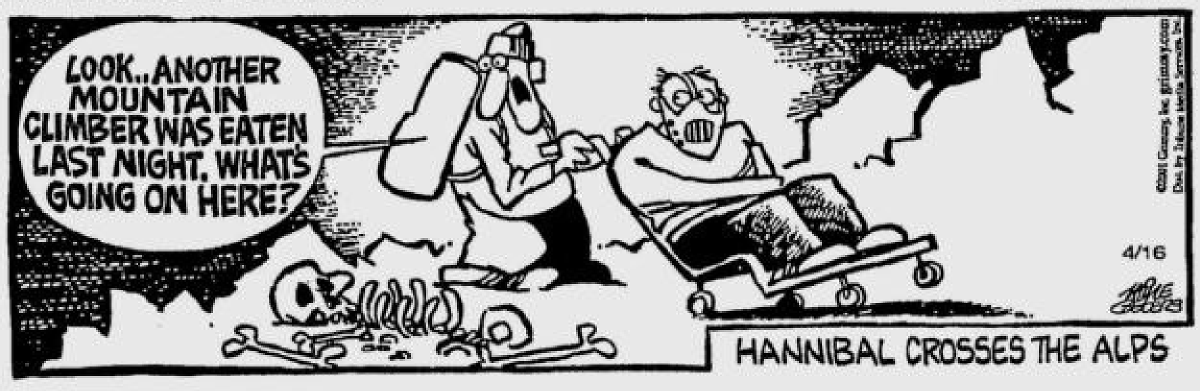
LOOK.. ANOTHER MOUNTAIN CLIMBER WAS EATEN LAST NIGHT. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
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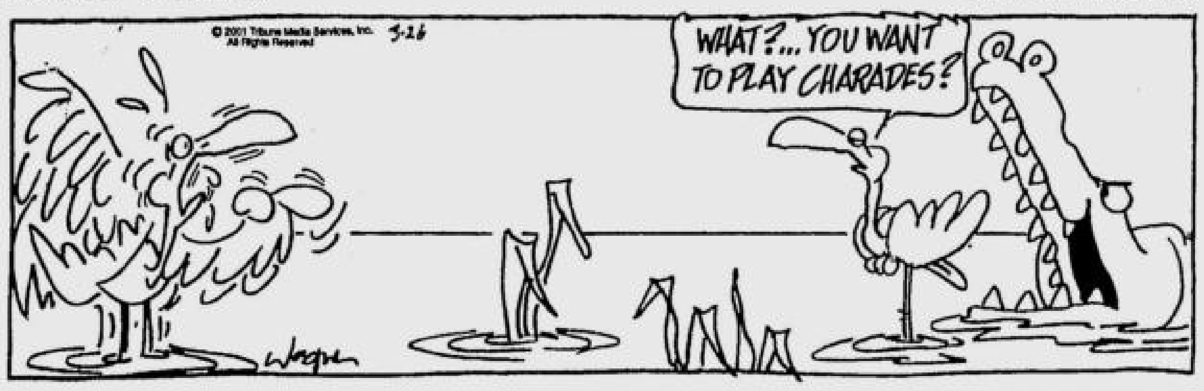
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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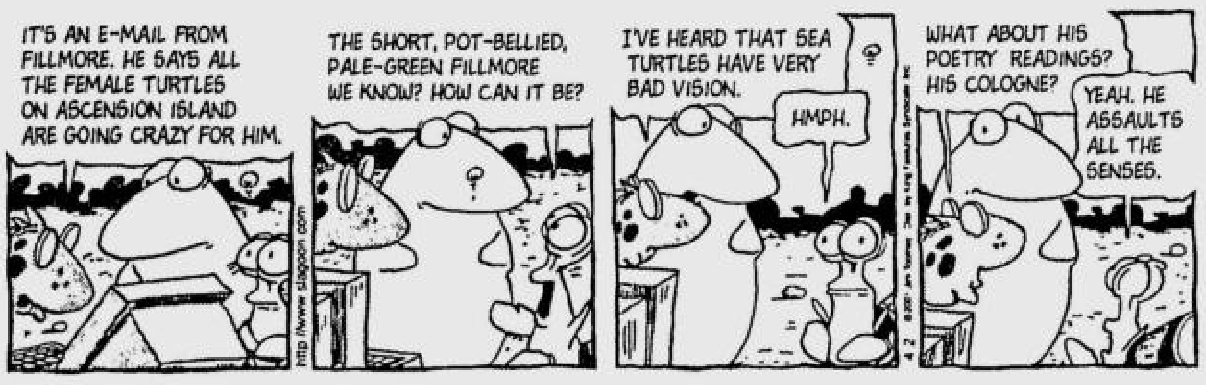
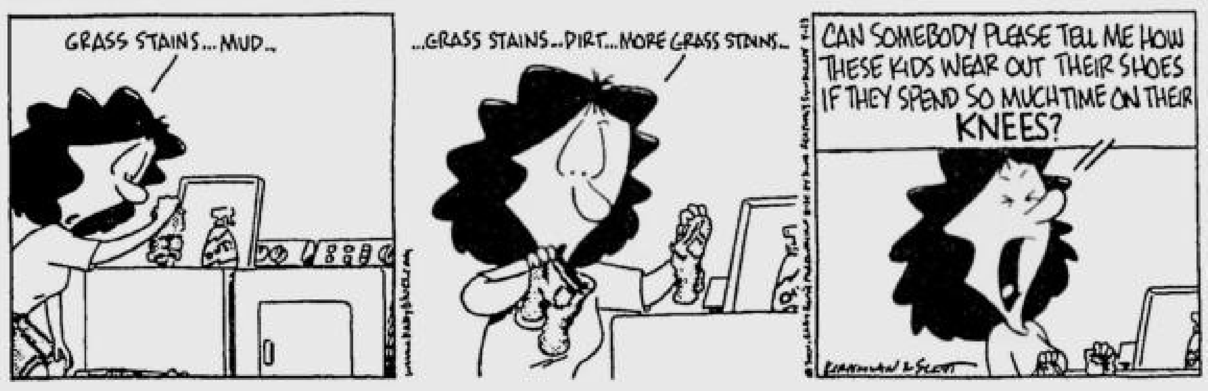
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IT'S AN E-MAIL FROM FILLMORE. HE SAYS ALL THE FEMALE TURTLES ON ASCENSION ISLAND ARE GOING CRAZY FOR HIM.
THE SHORT, POT-BELLIED, PALE-GREEN FILLMORE WE KNOW? HOW CAN IT BE?
http://www.slagoon.com
I'VE HEARD THAT SEA TURTLES HAVE VERY BAD VISION.
HMPH.
WHAT ABOUT HIS POETRY READINGS? HIS COLOGNE?
YEAH. HE ASSAULTS ALL THE SENSES.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GRASS STAINS... MUD..
...GRASS STAINS... DIRT... MORE GRASS STAINS...
CAN SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME HOW THESE KIDS WEAR OUT THEIR SHOES IF THEY SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON THEIR KNEES?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Byrne, George Lucas, Cate Blanchett, Tom Cochrane, Shanice

Happy Birthday: Being stubborn will lead to setbacks. Put your differences aside this year and take the help being offered. You will discover new methods of doing things if you are open to what others think and feel. Look to the future with optimism and move in a direction that will bring satisfaction. Your numbers: 2, 5, 19, 22, 31, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll do anything to stay ahead of the competition. Your compulsive action may lead to trouble if you've neglected your personal obligations. Be sure that your motives are virtuous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. You may have personal problems, but professional duties must be dealt with first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to spend some time with close friends. The connections you make will lead to a better professional position. Financial losses are likely if you insist on taking a risk.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your partner will read you the riot act if you've been spending money unnecessarily. This could be the dispute of the year. Don't go shopping, and you won't be tempted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your partner may be getting fed up if you've been refusing to make a commitment. Travel and romance should be on your mind. If you're with the wrong person, end it and get on with your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A one-sided romantic attraction is likely. Keep it to yourself to avoid embarrassment. Career advancement can be yours if you focus on your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be good to yourself. Join a gym, check into self-improvement projects. Make plans to relax and rejuvenate. This is not the time to spend on others. You're the one that needs it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've been holding in your anger. You should put your efforts into making changes and improvements around your home. Keep busy and you may minimize your tension.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too eager to quit your job. You may have gotten wind of an opportunity, but don't put all your eggs in one basket. Things may not be as they appear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be torn in many different directions if you try to take care of everyone's demands all at once. Organize yourself and take care of your own needs first. Don't let yourself be taken for granted.

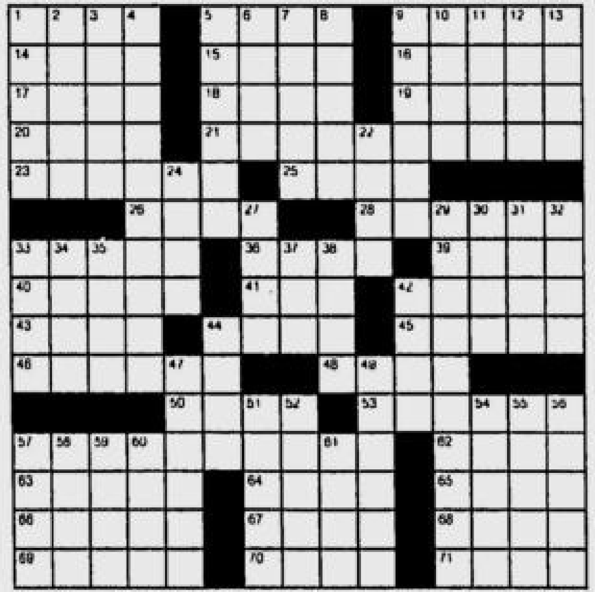
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional anger will cause problems with your mate. If he or she wants some space, provide it. It's time to get busy doing the things you enjoy most, and if that includes other people, so be it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you work with may be trying to hold you back. Don't give him or her any grounds for criticism or rumors. Be precise and do the best job possible.

Birthday Baby: You are clever, witty and full of joy. You bring a smile to the face of those you meet, and you will always have a few words of wisdom for those who need help. You are charming, creative and caring.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

3/28/01

ACROSS

1 St.Louis landmark
5 Building wings
9 Gander's mate
14 Odometer unit
15 Sheep fat
16 Spoke wildly
17 Alaska's first governor
18 Future figurine
19 In front
20 City on the Rhine
21 Rabe play
23 Sock pattern
25 "Hud" co-star
26 Saucy and spirited
28 Discuss once more
33 Stories
36 Downpour
39 Org. of court players
40 Moran and Gray
41 Conceit
42 Angler's tote
43 Work for
44 Hammer part
45 First Vice President
46 Assassin
48 Suffering dull pains
50 Misplace
53 Dickinson and others
57 Monkey business
62 "Do __ others as..."
63 So long, senor
64 Actor Bridges
65 German region
66 Alcove
67 Sea eagles
68 Mild expletive
69 Inscribed stone
70 Memorizing process
71 Urges

DOWN

1 One-celled organism
2 Severity
3 Trolley's bell sound
4 Fictional biddy
5 Graphic artist M.C. __
6 Corker
7 Memorize
8 Technique
9 Betty with million dollar legs
10 Hawaiian island
11 Completed
12 Tight closure
13 Water whirl
22 Tall tale
24 A smaller amount
27 Beech or birch
29 Barrel organ
30 Toward open waters
31 Watch winder
32 Holbrook and Linden
33 Golf gadgets
34 Sea east of the Caspian
35 Capri cash
37 Mature
38 New Rochelle college
42 Lyricist Sammy
44 Support
47 French palace
49 Indian pony
51 Cavalry sword
52 Juarez January
54 Harden
55 Patriot Allen
56 Categorizes
57 Actor Conried
58 Mine entrance
59 Pleasant French city?
60 First chancellor of reunified Germany
61 Philosopher Immanuel

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

F	U	S	E	■	S	A	N	S	■	A	R	G	O	T
I	N	N	S	■	T	R	E	T	■	D	E	R	M	A
R	I	O	T	■	E	I	R	E	■	S	T	A	N	D
S	T	R	I	K	E	Z	O	N	E	■	A	N	I	S
T	E	E	M	E	D	■	■	O	V	O	I	D	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	S	O	N	■	A	L	L	S	E	T
L	O	F	T	S	■	N	O	O	N	E	■	L	Y	E
A	G	U	E	■	C	A	S	K	S	■	G	A	R	N
I	L	L	■	T	U	N	E	R	■	N	A	M	E	D
T	E	L	L	E	R	■	D	A	T	U	M	■	■	■
■	■	C	O	M	E	R	■	■	A	D	E	P	T	S
A	L	O	U	■	D	O	U	B	L	E	P	L	A	Y
S	O	U	N	D	■	O	N	T	O	■	L	U	L	L
T	O	N	G	A	■	S	T	U	N	■	A	T	I	P
O	T	T	E	R	■	T	O	S	S	■	N	O	A	H

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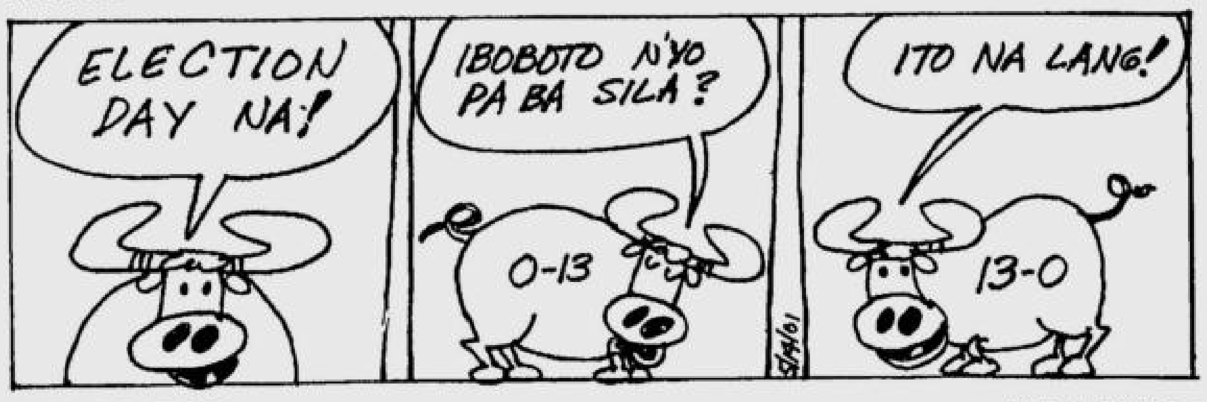
3/28/01

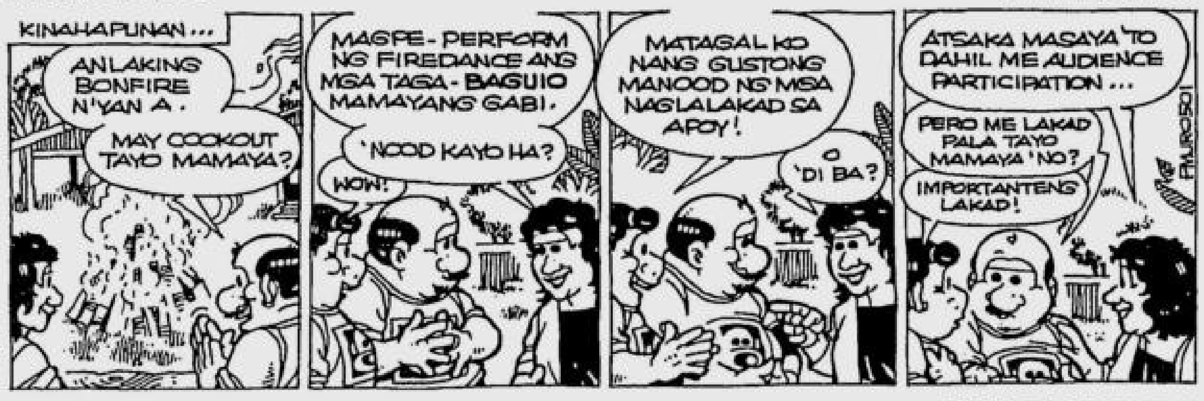
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ELECTION DAY NA!
IBOBOTO N'YO PA BA SILA?
0-13
ITO NA LANG!
13-0

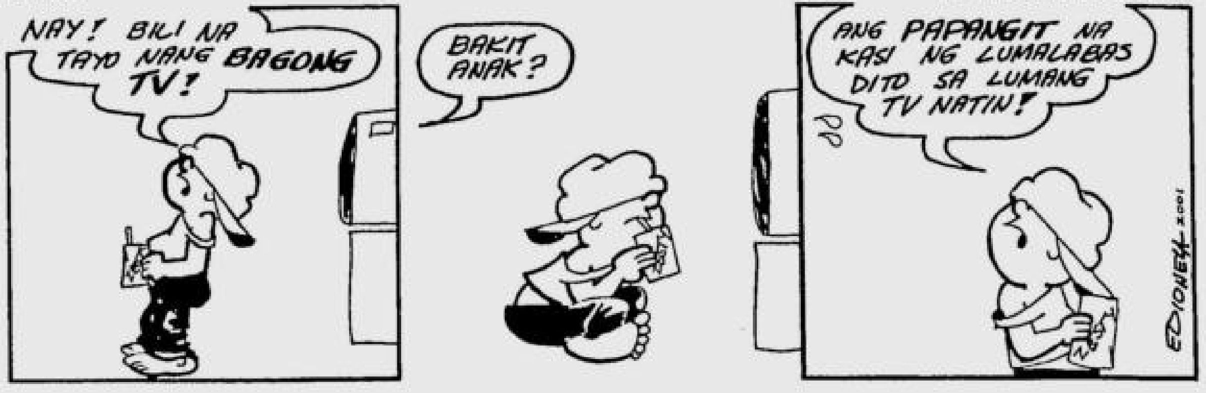
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KINAHAPUNAN...
ANLAKING BONFIRE N'YAN A.
MAY COOKOUT TAYO MAMAYA?
MAGPE-PERFORM NG FIREDANCE ANG MGA TAGA-BAGUIO MAMAYANG GABI.
'NOOD KAYO HA?
WOW!
MATAGAL KO NANG GUSTONG MANOOD NG MGA NAGLALAKAD SA APOY!
O 'DI BA?
ATSAKA MASAYA 'TO DAHIL ME AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION...
PERO ME LAKAD PALA TAYO MAMAYA 'NO?
IMPORTANTENG LAKAD!
PMJR

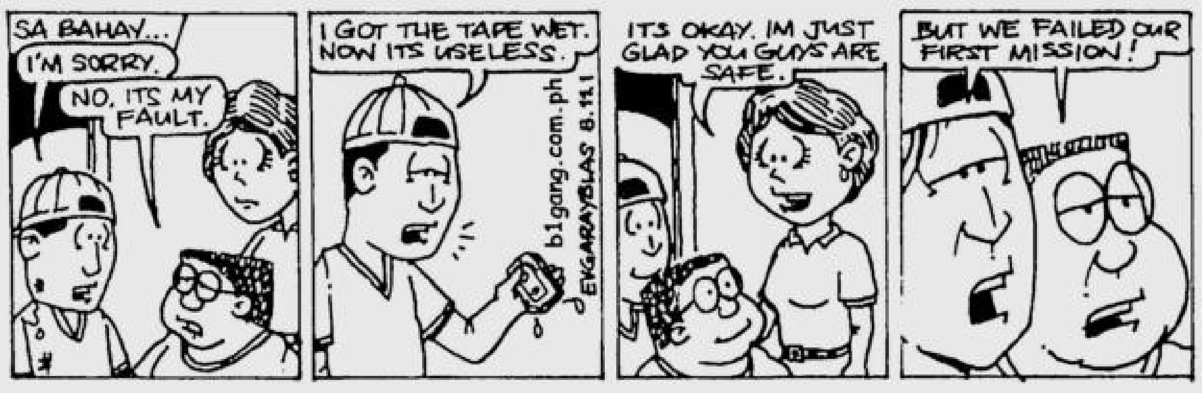
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY! BILI NA TAYO NANG BAGONG TV!
BAKIT ANAK?
ANG PAPANGIT NA KASI NG LUMALABAS DITO SA LUMANG TV NATIN!
EDIONELA 2001

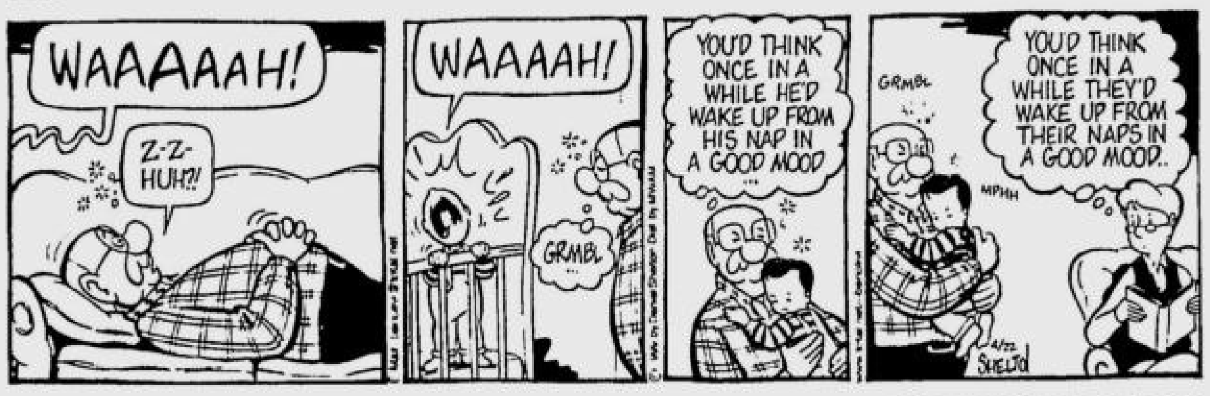
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA BAHAY...
I'M SORRY.
NO, ITS MY FAULT.
I GOT THE TAPE WET. NOW ITS USELESS.
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.11.1
ITS OKAY. IM JUST GLAD YOU GUYS ARE SAFE.
BUT WE FAILED OUR FIRST MISSION!

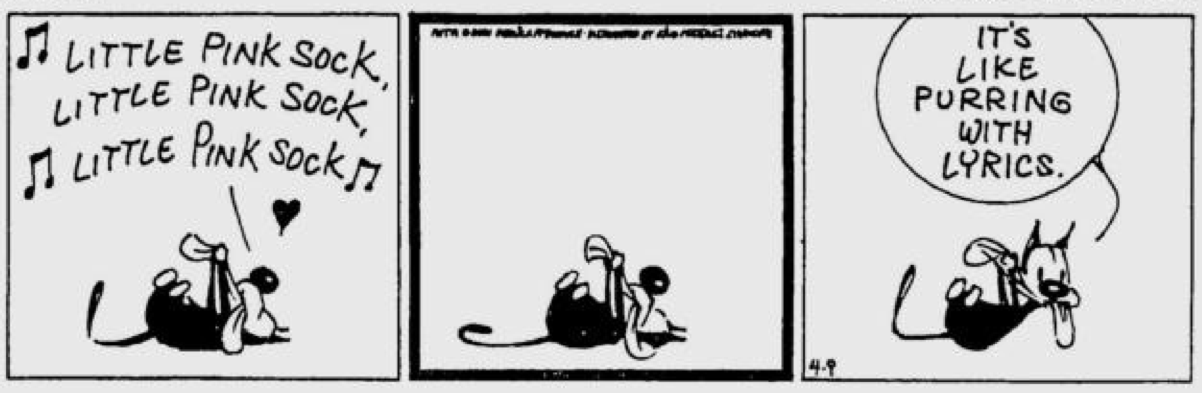
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAAAH!
Z-Z-HUH?!
WAAAAH!
GRMBL
YOU'D THINK ONCE IN A WHILE HE'D WAKE UP FROM HIS NAP IN A GOOD MOOD
GRMBL
MPHH
YOU'D THINK ONCE IN A WHILE THEY'D WAKE UP FROM THEIR NAPS IN A GOOD MOOD..
SHELTON

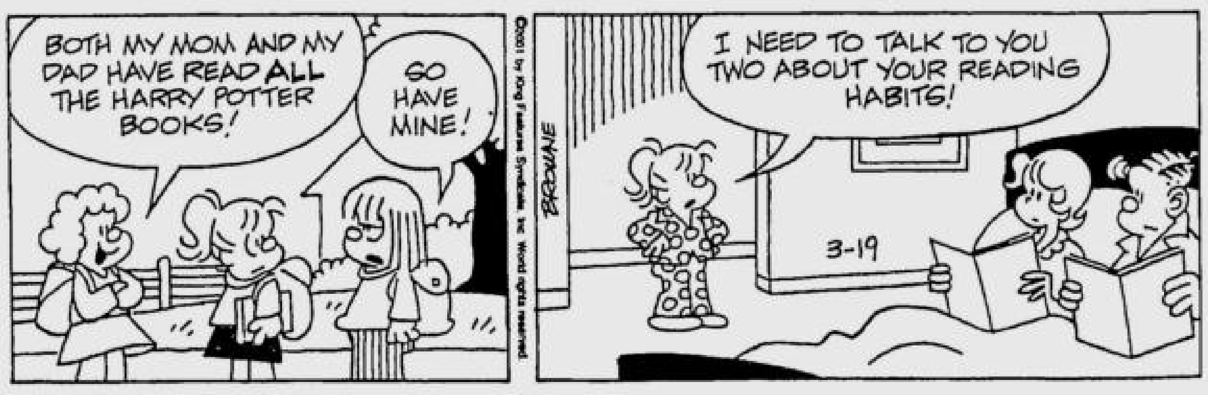
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK, LITTLE PINK SOCK, ♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK ♫
IT'S LIKE PURRING WITH LYRICS.
4-9

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


BOTH MY MOM AND MY DAD HAVE READ ALL THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS!
SO HAVE MINE!
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU TWO ABOUT YOUR READING HABITS!
3-19
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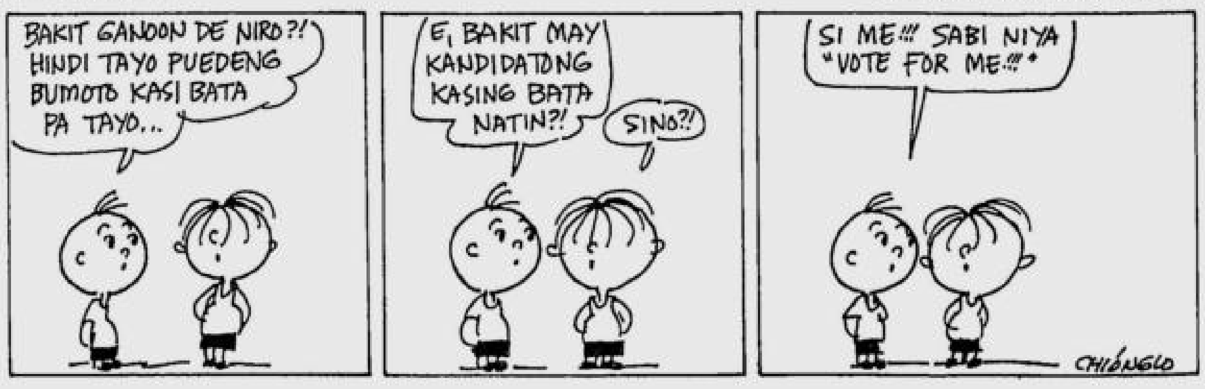
BROWNE

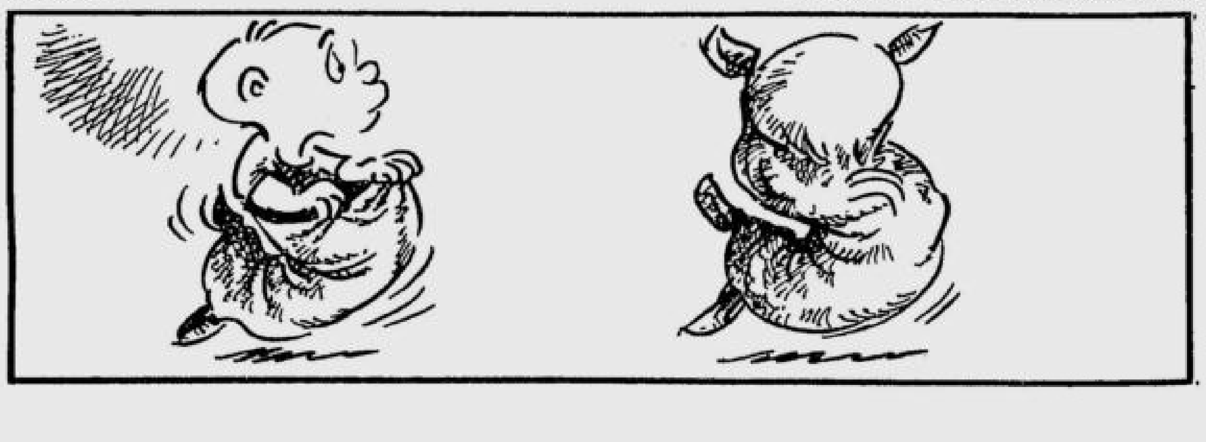
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT GANOON DE NIRO?! HINDI TAYO PUEDENG BUMOTO KASI BATA PA TAYO...
E, BAKIT MAY KANDIDATONG KASING BATA NATIN?!
SINO?!
SI ME!!! SABI NIYA "VOTE FOR ME!!!"
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Singapore jazz festival opens May 18

THE FIRST EVER Singapore International Jazz Festival, touted as Asia's biggest musical event of the year, will open on May 18.

From May 18-20, four giant stages set around the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Center at Suntec City will showcase more than 50 performances by over 150 renowned jazz musicians from the United States and Asia-Pacific Region.

The jazzfest kicks off on May 18 with the swinging sounds of the Thomson Big Band, featuring Grammy award-winning saxophonist Ernie Watts and bassist-vocalist Eldee Young.

May 19 will be New Age and Contemporary Jazz Nite, where Windham Hill stars Tuck and Patti, as well superstar guitarist Lee Ritenour and his band, dish out their own kind of soul-lifting sounds.

Those looking for jazz "potpourri" will enjoy the All-Star Variety on the afternoon of May 20. The Philippines' very own Tots Tolentino will take centerstage, together with such regional greats as Redd Holt, Eugene Pao, Jay Anderson and Jeremy Monteiro.

The Festival closes on May 20 with an Acoustic Jazz Nite featuring the best of the East and the West by the Japanese veteran trumpeteer Terumasa Hino and the sensational Dizzy Gillespie Alumni with James Moody, Slide Hampton, Jon Faddis and Jon Lee.

This musicfest also offers jazz workshops and jam sessions—all organized to give local musicians the chance to learn from the masters as well as build up interest in jazz among the young.

The Singapore International Jazz Festival is presented by Singapore Airlines, which flies three times daily from Manila. Passengers have a choice of morning, afternoon and evening departures, and can expect to be pampered by the airline's renowned in-flight service—choice of gourmet meals, free-flowing champagne and KrisWorld, the airline's state-of-the-art in-flight system available on all three classes.

Tickets to the Singapore International Jazz Festival, which is cosponsored by Heineken and American Express, are priced at S$120, S$90 and S$60. Members of KrisFlyer, Singapore Airlines' frequent flyer program, can avail of a 15 percent discount on tickets. Visit the website at www.singaporejazzfestival.com. For hotel accommodations, contact the SIA Tours Desk at 810-4960 local 4004 to 06.

Bankard series shows Peta play

THE BANKARD TicketCharge Ninth Performing Arts Season will continue its Bankard Trilogy 2001 series on May 18 with "Dreamweaver," the Philippine Educational Theater Association's (Peta) original full-length play by Palanca award-winner Rody Vera about the feminization of poverty.

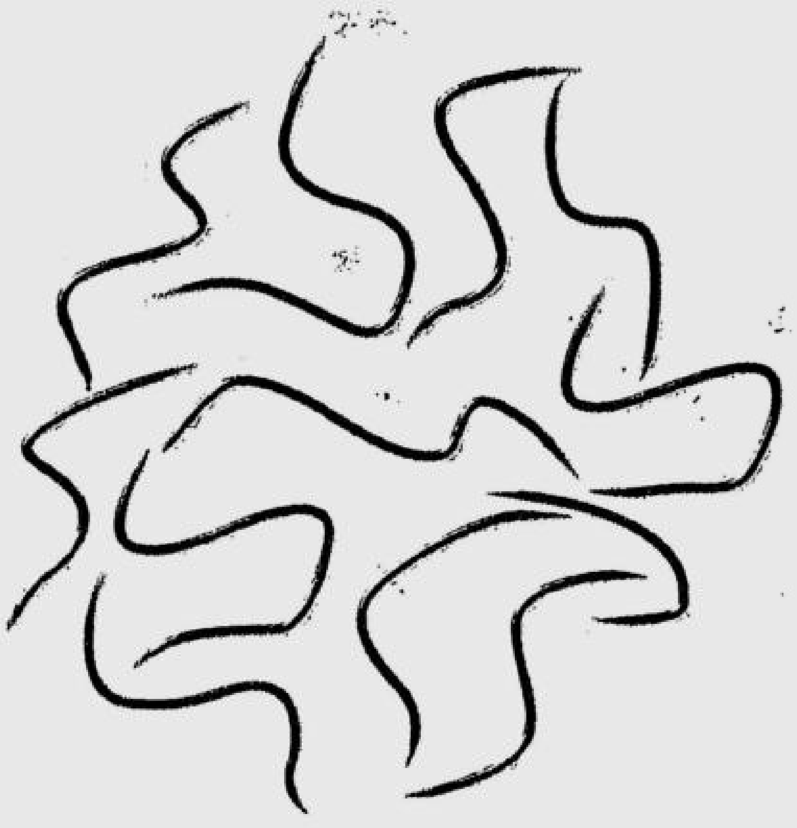
Directed by Maribel Legarda and Phil Noble, with compositions by Grace Nono and musical director Noel Cabangon, "Dreamweaver" tells of the frustrations of three friends who are separated by poverty.

The play was toured in Holland last year in support of the "Global March of Women 2000," a worldwide campaign participated in by 167 countries to eliminate poverty and violence against women last year.

"Dreamweaver" will run on May 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 8 p.m., with matinees at 3 p.m. on May 19, 20, 26 and 27. Performances will be at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza corner Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Entrance is free to all Bankard cardholders and Airmiles enrollees, teachers, students and senior citizens upon presentation of valid IDs. Free tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis. For noncardholders, tickets are priced at P300. Advanced booking is required for groups of 20 or more.

Call Bankard TicketCharge at 634-6644.



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Arabohok. Shaggylid lang ang buhok. BMW (buhok mo wig). AGA nalagas.

Have you, at one time or another been called one of these cute but hurtful taunts? Leave it to the Filipino to come up with funny jeers. But if you examine it a little closer, these nicknames, though often said in jest are anything but funny. The truth is losing one's hair is never funny.

The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

Good thing there are scientifically-tested and highly-effective hair growth formula available today. One of these is Minoxidil Regroe. Regroe is a result of years of study in the U.S. and is one of the few medications that has proven its efficacy. Eighty percent of users have grown their hair back in 6 months. While results vary from case to case- some start to grow their hair back as early as two months-most of the users are satisfied with the product. At the first month of use, falling hair stops. At two months, new hair starts to grow. At 6 months, all lost hair would have been recovered. That is how effective Regroe is.

Arabohok? AGA nalagas? Don't be a joke forever. You can do something about your hair loss. Act now before it's too late-- call the Regroe Hotline.

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For more information on effective hair growth, send this coupon to VBP Group of Companies, 5/F Champaen Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City

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Promo [illegible] 07 to May 31, 2001 to all; P100 (4hrs.+4hrs.+4hrs.= 12 Free hours), P 200 (8hrs.+8[illegible] Free hours), P 300 (13hrs.+13hrs.+13hrs.= 39 Free hrs.), & P 500 (20hrs.+20hrs.+20hrs.= 60 Free hrs.) will have the additional hours if used within 1am - 8am.

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*See User's Guide for other Access Numbers and additional instructions.

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